JACK KIRBY

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

OF SUPER TOWN!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

"FINDER BEAMS," MOONRIDER! --DARKSEID'S ABOUT TO CANCEL US OUT!! BUT, TOTALLY!!

SONNY! USE MOTHER BOX TO PROTECT US! SHE'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

JACK KIRBY

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THE FOREVER PEOPLE BY JACK KIRBY

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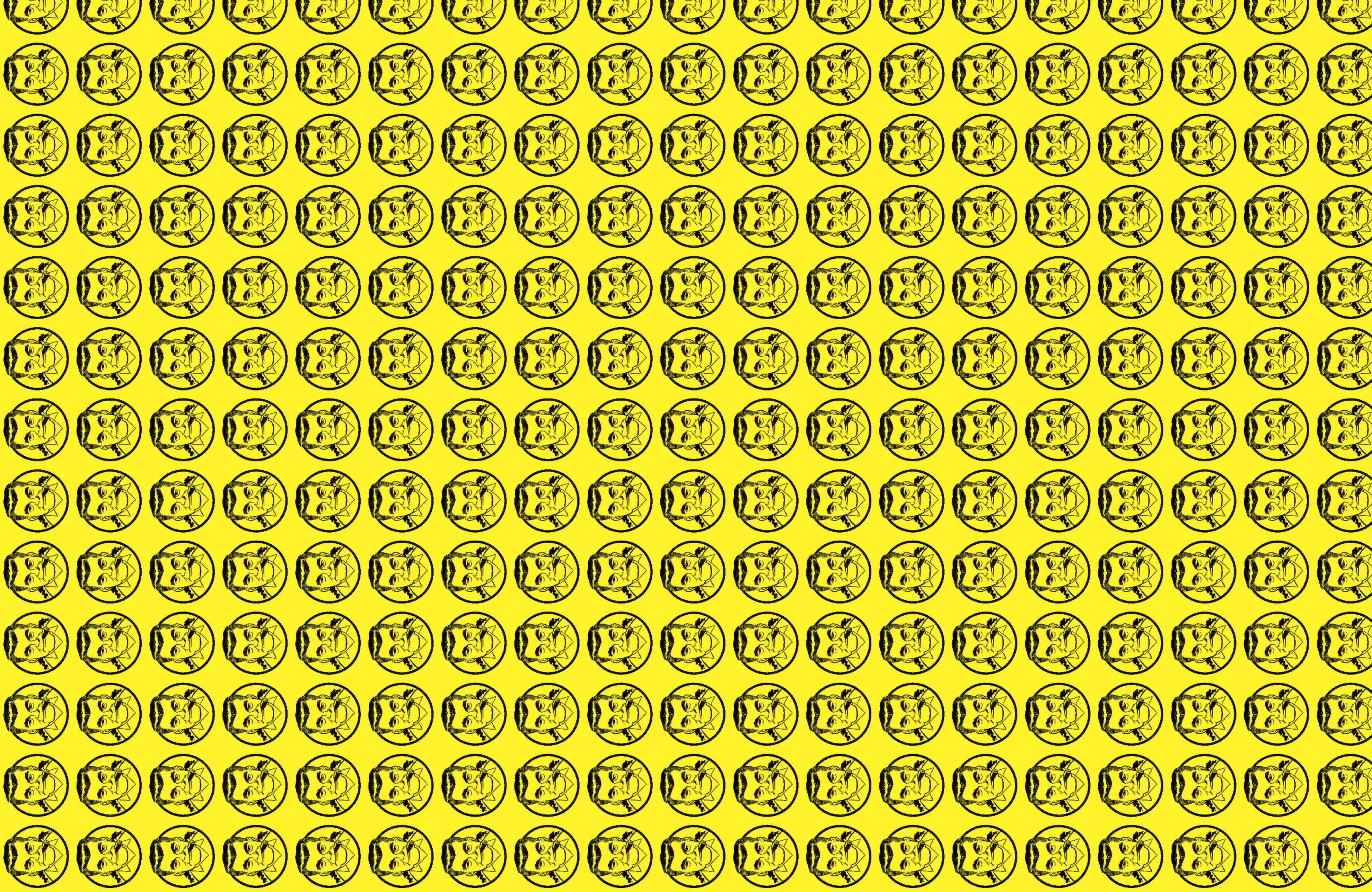
TAARUU!

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE
THE FOREVER PEOPLE OF SUPER TOWN
MAR. NO. 1
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THEY BELONG TO SUNRISE-- THEY'RE HERE IN MID-DAY-- TO STOP THE DARK SPREAD OF NIGHT!
KIRBY'S HERE!
WAIT! THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE TO FIND MY OWN KIND! YOU MUST TELL ME HOW TO REACH SUPERTOWN!
TRY THE BOOM TUBE-- IF YOU DARE!
BEAUTIFUL DREAMER
ALSO, A BIG BONUS GUEST STAR-- SUPERMAN!



LISTEN TO THE NIGHT--YOU MAY HEAR SOUNDS HEARD BY FEW MEN... WATCH FOR THE LIGHT--YOU'LL SEE IT, IF YOU'RE SHARP, AND THEN...

SCRRREEEEERREEEEE

HOLD YOUR EARS--IT MUST BE COMING THROUGH-- FROM THERE TO HERE-- ON A TRIP WITH A INFINITE VIEW...

RRREEEEEEEEEE

WHAT IS IT? WHO'S IN IT? WELL THEY'RE BOTH NEW TO THIS AGE... STAND BACK FOR THE ANSWERS-- THEY'RE ON THE NEXT PAGE--

EEEEEEEF

X-100

The FOREVER PEOPLE!
THEY'RE FROM A PLACE THAT MEN HAVE SOUGHT, BUT NEVER FOUND-- WE'VE SEEN THEIR LIKE BEFORE-- IN DIFFERENT AGES-- IN DIFFERENT GUISE-- BUT NEVER LIKE THIS-- YET, ALWAYS LIKE THIS-- WHEN MAN'S CIVILIZATION FACES DESTRUCTION...
RRRABBOOM
IN SEARCH OF A DREAM!
EDITED, DRAWN AND WRITTEN by JACK KIRBY (OUR MAN IN THE BOOM TUBE) INKED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
GUEST-STARRING THE IMMORTAL SUPERMAN

WE'RE THROUGH THE *BOOM TUBE!* WE'RE *HERE!*

EEEEEHHAAAAAA

BIG BEAR GOT YOU HERE, *VYKIN!* REMEMBER THAT!

YOU *GIANT-SIZED GRANITE-BRAIN!* YOU *DIDN'T* PLOT OUR COURSE WITH THE *MOTHER BOX!*

WE MAY HAVE EMERGED AT THE *WRONG* SPOT!

TRUE!

A *CAR*-- COMING UP FAST! *EYES FRONT,* YOU HAIRY DING-A-LING! WE'RE GOING TO *COLLIDE!*

COOL IT, I KNOW WHAT BUTTONS TO PUSH!

GOOD LORD! THAT THING--IT POPPED OUT OF *NOWHERE!*

EMERGENCY *PHASE OUT* INITIATED! GET READY TO *FADE,* FRIENDS!

IT'S *TOO LATE* TO CUT AWAY! *WE'RE GOING TO HIT!*

AT THE MOMENT OF COLLISION--

THE *SUPER-CYCLE* WORKS LIKE A CHARM!

OUR ATOMS HAVE BEEN *RE-SHIFTED* SO WE CAN PASS THROUGH THE CAR LIKE *GHOSTS!*

4

BUT THE YOUNG OCCUPANTS OF THE CAR, *TERRIFIED* BY THE EXPERIENCE, *LOSE* CONTROL OF THEIR VEHICLE...

CAN'T HOLD, LAURIE! *WE'RE GOING OFF THE CLIFF!*

THEN FOLLOWS *ANOTHER* STARTLING EVENT!

WE'RE *NOT* FALLING!

I *CAN'T* BELIEVE IT, BOBBY! *WE'VE HALTED IN MID-AIR!*

THE CAR IS BEING *HELD* BY SOME *INVISIBLE FORCE!*

THAT FELLOW WITH THAT *STRANGE BOX! HE'S* DOING THIS!

WE'RE BEING DRAWN BACK TO *SAFETY! THAT'S* WHAT COUNTS!

11X250

THE *MOTHER BOX PROTECTS* US ALL!

ARE YOU *HURT?*

WE SHOULD BE *DEAD!* WHAT ARE YOU CATS? *MAGICIANS?*

I AM *VYKIN THE BLACK-- LISTEN--* MOTHER BOX IS *APOLOGIZING* FOR THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT!

ER, I AM *MARK MOONRIDER*--WHAT VYKIN MEANS IS THAT MOTHER BOX IS LIKE A-- *COMPUTER--*

PING PING PING

WRONG! MOTHER BOX *LIVES!* SHE *TALKS* TO US-- *PROTECTS* US!

WE SHALL *NEED* HER WHEN THE TIME COMES TO RESCUE *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!*

--I-IS THAT RIGHT-- HOW ABOUT THAT--

SHE HAS BEEN TAKEN HERE BY EVIL *DARKSEID* HIMSELF! THAT'S WHY WE *RISKED* COMING HERE FROM *SUPER-TOWN!*

--ONLY, HOT PILOT, *BIG BEAR,* FOULED THINGS UP--AS USUAL!

WHERE DID YOU PARK THE *SUPER-CYCLE?*

ON A WHITE, FAT *CLOUD!* DOES THAT MAKE YOU *NERVOUS?*

HASN'T *ANYONE* GIVEN THOUGHT TO THE YOUNG LADY? *THESE* SHOULD CALM HER!

HEH-HEH-- YOUNG *SERIFAN* IS DOING HIS BIG HERO BIT!

HERE, MISS-- I TRUST THESE WILL *HELP*--

SERIFAN TURNS ON WITH *FANTASIES!* HE'S A *SENSITIVE!* WE'LL *NEED* HIM IF WE EVER HOPE TO *CONTACT BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!*

WOW! IT'S LUCKY I HAD MY *CAMERA* IN THE CAR!

WOULD YOU FELLAS *MIND* IF I TAKE SOME SHOTS?

GO AHEAD, BUT MAKE IT FAST! OUR MISSION HERE IS *URGENT!*

WHY DON'T YOU JUST *SMILE?*

6

THAT *EERIE* LIGHT! WHAT IS IT?

IT COMES FROM THE *BOOM TUBE!*

IT HASN'T DE-MATERIAL-IZED YET!

GROOVY! IF IT'S AS *WEIRD* AS *YOU* CHARACTERS, I'VE GOT A *SCOOP* FOR A GOOD FRIEND!

THE TUBE IS JUST DOWN THE ROAD--

JIMMY OLSEN WILL EAT THIS UP, BOBBY!

BUT *DON'T* DRIVE INTO IT--YOU'RE *NOT* READY FOR THE *TRIP!*

THEY'LL JUST HAVE TIME TO SNAP A PHOTO. THE TUBE IS DUE TO *FADE OUT* VERY SOON!

MOONRIDER! LOOK TO *SERIFAN*--HE'S *SLUMPING* TO THE GROUND!

MY *HEAD*--*THOUGHTS* FROM *OUTSIDE*--STREAMING INTO MY BRAIN--I-I--

HE'S MADE *CONTACT*--WITH *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!*

WHEN *SERIFAN WAKES*--WE WILL *KNOW* HER MESSAGE!

THEN, IT'S *ACTION!* WE'LL DEFY *DARKSEID* AND ALL HIS EVIL MINIONS TO GET HER BACK!

7

FROM THE NEARBY VEGETATION, BUSHES RUSTLE AND DEATH LOOKS OUT...

THEY MAKE *PERFECT* TARGETS! WE COULD NAIL THEM NOW!

NO, YOU FOOL! NOT YET!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *REPORT* TO *DARKSEID* WHEN THEY'VE BEEN SPOTTED!

BUT THEY'RE AN *EASY* KILL!

NOT AS EASY AS YOU THINK! THEY'RE *NOT* LIKE US!

THEY'RE LIKE THAT *CHICK* WE'RE HOLDING FOR *DARKSEID*--SHE GIVES ME THE *WHIM-WHAMS!*

INTER-GANG REPORTING TO *DARKSEID!* THE BIRDS ARE OUT IN THE OPEN! DO WE *FIRE?*

ARE THEY OF THE *TYPE* I *DESCRIBED* TO YOU?

THEY'RE YOUNG-- ONE OF THEM HAS *BLACKED OUT*-- IT'S MORE LIKE HE FELL *ASLEEP!*

NO, YOU OAF! HE'S *MADE MENTAL* CONTACT WITH THE GIRL!

WHEN HE WAKES, THE YOUNG ONES WILL *LEAVE!* FOLLOW *THEM!*

YOU *HEARD* HIM! HOLD YOUR FIRE AND--*WAIT*--

TOO BAD... *INTER-GANG* LIKES TO *DELIVER* GOOD SERVICE!

8

BUT OTHER EVENTS ARE STIRRING! IN HIS SMALL OFFICE AT THE **DAILY PLANET**, CLARK KENT FINISHES AN INTERVIEW WITH A FAMOUS SPORTS FIGURE...

THANKS FOR DROPPING IN, *ROCKY.* THIS WILL MAKE A GREAT *HUMAN INTEREST FEATURE!*

GLAD TO HELP, KENT!

THE BOYS AT THE SPORTS DESK RATE YOU AS AN *OKAY* GUY!

SAY! THAT'S QUITE A *GRIP* YOU'VE GOT!

EVER BEEN IN THE *RING?*

ER--NO--I JUST EAT THE RIGHT MORNING CEREALS!

ROCKY--*ONE* QUESTION *BEFORE* YOU LEAVE--

WHY ARE YOU *UNHAPPY?*

CAUGHT *THAT* IN YOUR *NOTES,* DID YOU?

BUT YOU'RE THE *CHAMP!*

THAT'S JUST WHAT'S *BUGGING* ME!

THE PUBLIC *LOVES* AND *RESPECTS* YOU!

WHAT HAVE I DONE--THAT *SUPERMAN* COULDN'T DO *BETTER?*

HE CAN PUT DOWN AN *ARMY* OF *TITLE-HOLDERS!*

WITH *SUPERMAN* IN THE PICTURE, THE FIGHT GAME IS A *FARCE!*

YES--I-I SEE *YOUR* VIEWPOINT, ROCKY--

IF ONLY I COULD MEET HIM ON HIS *OWN* TERMS--!

NO CHARGE, KENT!

BUT KEEP IT *OFF* THE RECORD. IT MIGHT *HURT* THE GATE RECEIPTS!

SURE, CHAMP...

POOR, ROCKY--

POOR SUPER-MAN!

DESPITE HIS POWERS, HE IS A MINORITY OF ONE IN A TEEMING WORLD OF BILLIONS!

WHAT DOES SUPERMAN MEAN TO YOU, DOWN THERE?

A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND...

DO THEY SECRETLY RESENT HIM? FEAR HIM--? HATE HIM?

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS-- I FEEL THAT I'M ALONE-- ALONE!

SUDDENLY...

CLARK! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THESE PHOTOS!

THEY'LL BLOW YOUR MIND!

OH--COME IN, JIMMY! "FLYING SAUCER TIME" AGAIN, EH?

YOU MUST BE KIDDING! THAT STUFF IS DEFINITELY "OUT!" THIS IS "IN" MATERIAL!

WHERE IN THE WILD BLUE YONDER DID YOU GET HOLD OF THESE SHOTS?

FROM FRIENDS OF MINE! AND I KNOW THEY WERE NOT "PUTTING ME ON!"

YES--STRANGE TYPES--AND YET--

EVER SEE A MOTORCYCLE LIKE THAT?-- AND THOSE KIDS--

SUPER-KIDS FROM A PLACE CALLED SUPER TOWN! THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE FOREVER PEOPLE! AND--

HOLD IT, JIMMY!-- JUST ONE SECOND!

10

SO YOU'RE GRABBED BY THE *BOOM TUBE*, HUH? ISN'T IT THE *WILDEST*?

MY FRIEND, BOBBY, SHOT THIS LAST FRAME AS IT WAS *FADING OUT!*

THERE IS SOMETHING--

ALTHOUGH, *CLARK KENT* STUDIES THE PHOTO--IT IS *SUPERMAN'S VISION* THAT PROBES THE TUBE'S STRANGE DEPTHS--

--IN THAT TUBE--

A TINY *MICRODOT* IN ITS INFINITE CENTER IS *ENLARGED* BY MILLIONS--AND A *FANTASTIC* IMAGE IS REVEALED!

--AT THE OTHER END--GOOD *LORD!*

ISN'T THAT A *GAS?*

THAT'S HOW THE *SUPERKIDS* SAID THEY GOT HERE! THROUGH THAT *TUBE!*

--A CITY-- *SUPERTOWN EXISTS!*

JIMMY--NOW GIVE ME THIS *ENTIRE* STORY--STEP BY STEP--

--FROM THE *BEGINNING!*

YOU BET!

EVEN AS A *LIE*--THIS YARN WOULD BE A *WHOPPER!*

AS *CLARK KENT* LISTENS--IT IS *SUPERMAN* WHO DARES TO DREAM--AND HOPE--

NOW GET THIS--BOBBY AND LAURIE HAD THIS DATE, SEE?...

WHEN JIMMY OLSEN IS DONE-- HE IS HURRIEDLY USHERED OUT OF THE OFFICE...

THEN YOU'LL *FOLLOW UP* THE STORY! *TERRIFIC!*

WE'LL SEE WHAT THE *FACTS* ARE!

--AND THAT'S JUST *EXACTLY* WHAT I *AIM* TO DO!--BUT *NOT* AS *CLARK KENT!*

THIS IS *SUPERMAN'S* WORK!-- BECAUSE IT'S *SUPERMAN'S* DREAM!

--THE *ONLY* WAY TO FIND *SUPERTOWN*--

--IS TO *FIND THOSE KIDS!*

--THEY WERE HEADED FOR THE *CITY*--AND I *DO* KNOW FROM *WHAT* DIRECTION!

LIKE A SUPERSONIC MISSILE, SUPERMAN FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY IN PURSUIT OF WHAT COULD BE A WILL-O'-THE-WISP--OR THE END OF ALL YEARNING!

12

BUT AS SUPERMAN STREAKS ACROSS THE SKY, HE PAYS NO ATTENTION TO THE HELICOPTER ON A SIMILAR COURSE...

LOOK!--OUT THERE...!

SUPERMAN! I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE *UNWELCOME* SIGHT!

HE *COULD BE A THREAT* TO OUR MISSION--

BUT HE *DOESN'T* SEEM TO *SUSPECT!*

INTER-GANG TO *DARKSEID!* WE HAVE *UNEXPECTED* COMPANY-- *SUPERMAN!*

HE IS A *DANGER! USE YOUR WEAPONS!*

I *DON'T* WANT HIM *MEDDLING!*

BUT CAN THESE *SIGMA-GUNS* DO THE JOB--? YOU KNOW OF HIS *POWERS!*

STUN HIM, IF YOU CAN! THAT WILL BE *ENOUGH!* NOW, DISTURB ME NO FURTHER!

WHEN *DARKSEID* GIVES AN ORDER, IT *MUST* BE OBEYED! INTER-GANG IS ONLY *SMALL* APPLES IN THE *CRIME EMPIRE* HE'S BUILDING!

THERE'S MORE TO *DARKSEID* THAN *THAT!* HE MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT *DRACULA* IS *ALIVE* AND *WELL* IN *TRANSYLVANIA!*

SUPERMAN HAS *SPOTTED* THE *KIDS!*

THIS IS IT! ZERO IN ON HIM-- AND *DON'T MISS!*

MEANWHILE, **SUPERMAN** IS TOTALLY ABSORBED IN HIS SEARCH...

THERE--IN THAT ABANDONED **LUMBER MILL** IN THE DISTANCE--

IT **COULD** BE **THEM!**

I CAN SEE THEIR **COSTUMES**--THAT **STRANGE** VEHICLE--JUST AS THEY WERE IN THOSE **PHOTOS**--

I'VE FOUND THEM!

HEADS UP, FRIENDS! WE'VE GOT **ANOTHER** VOLUNTEER FROM **SUPERTOWN!**

HE MAY BE A VOLUNTEER FOR **DARKSEID!**

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

SUDDENLY--!

ZZZZAP

SUPERMAN IS STRUCK HARD BY A SERIES OF **SIGMA-BLASTS,** AND ROLLS TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THIS UNKNOWN EXPLOSIVE!

ZZZZAARRAAP

IT WOULDN'T BE **POLITE** TO **IGNORE** A GREETING FROM SECRET **ADMIRERS!**

14

THIS HAS NEVER BEEN PART OF ANY OLYMPIC EVENT-- BUT IT COULD HAVE POSSIBILITIES!

SCRATCH ONE HELICOPTER AND MOTLEY CREW!

JUMP! OUR MISSION HAS FAILED!

ZOWWK

THEY'RE LANDING AND SCATTERING LIKE RABBITS!

GOOD WORK, FRIEND!

WELCOME, SUPERTOWNER! JOINING UP AGAINST DARKSEID?

WHA--?

--ER-- I'M NOT FROM SUPERTOWN, BUT--

BUT HOW CAN THAT BE?

NO ONE LIVING HERE COULD SURVIVE A SIGMA-BLAST!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR SPOOFING, FRIEND--

DON'T WASTE TIME ON HIM, MOONRIDER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!

MOTHER BOX SAYS SHE'S HERE--

PING PING PING

BUT WHEN HER SIGNALS PROBE FOR THE RIGHT LOCATION--THEY ARE SCATTERED BY A COUNTER-FORCE!

I MUST GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THESE SUPER-KIDS-- IF I EVER HOPE TO ACHIEVE WHAT I CAME FOR!

15

NOW WHAT, CLOWN? IS THIS A NEW ACT?

PERHAPS MY X-RAY VISION IS WHAT'S NEEDED!

MOTHER BOX WON'T LIKE THIS! BUT WE'LL RISK HER SONIC SCOLDING IF YOUR TRICK WORKS!

THERE! BENEATH THAT SHRUB--A SORT OF STRANGE METAL VALVE!

WAIT! BE CAREFUL--!

I'M THINKING OF BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! LET'S GO!

WE'RE WITH YOU, BIG BEAR!

THE VALVE HAS OPENED--! TRIGGERED BY OUR APPROACH!

IT'S RELEASING-- VAPOR!

MOTHER BOX SAYS TOXI-CLOUD!

POOFF

WE'VE ONLY GOT SECONDS TO LIVE!

THAT'S ALL I'LL NEED! BUT I HOPE SECONDS WILL BE ENOUGH!

USE--MOTHER BOX-- SHE'LL PROTECT--

NO USE-- SHE CAN'T FUNCTION IN THIS AREA--

THE GROUND MUST BE CRAWLING WITH DARKSEID'S EVIL MACHINES!

16

WITH SUPERSONIC SPEED, SUPERMAN CREATES A MINIATURE TORNADO WHICH INSTANTANEOUSLY DISSIPATES THE POISON GAS...

THIS MAY CAUSE SOME SLIGHT DAMAGE--BUT IT WILL SAVE LIVES!

BUT THERE ARE NEW SURPRISES WAITING!

HANDS!--REACHING FOR ME!--I'M MOVING TOO FAST TO ESCAPE THEM!

WE'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO DEFY DARKSEID!

THE MOST FAITHFUL TO DARKSEID ARE HIS GRAVI-GUARDS!

VYKIN--WE'RE ALIVE--BUT STILL IN TROUBLE!

I SEE THEM, TOO!

SEIZE THE YOUNG ONES! THIS ONE HAS THE MIGHT TO MOVE A MOUNTAIN--

BUT IT SHALL NOT AVAIL HIM! DARKSEID CHOSE US WELL!

WE TRANSMIT GRAVITY WAVES FROM HEAVY MASS GALAXIES--WE CAN HOLD ANY SUPER-BEING!

IT'S TRUE--THERE IS INCREDIBLE, CRUSHING WEIGHT BEING CHANNELED INTO MY BODY!

17

HANG ON, SUPERMAN! THERE'S A WAY TO BEAT THESE BOULDER-SHOULDERED KNOT-HEADS!

THEY MOVE WITH THE SPEED OF GLUE! IT'S GIVEN US TIME TO SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF THE VAPOR!

--AND RELEASE THE ONE WHO LIVES OUTSIDE OF ALL THINGS FINITE!

QUICK! --ASK MOTHER FOR THE RITUAL!

RISE, MOTHER BOX-- UNITE US AS ONE--

YOU BRATS ARE FINISHED!

SEND HIM YOUR SIGNAL, MOTHER BOX! MAKE US THE DOOR FOR HIM TO ENTER--

PREPARE FOR THE WORD, MOTHER BOX!

LET YOUR CIRCUITS CARRY THE WORD-- LET IT GROW LOUD-- UNTIL IT REACHES THE WINDS OF INFINITY!

TARRU!

I HAVE HEARD! I AM HERE! I AM THE INFINITY MAN!

18

W-WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

WHERE ALL OF NATURAL LAW SHIFTS, AND BENDS, AND CHANGES--

WHERE THE ANSWER TO GRAVITY IS ANTI-GRAVITY-- AND SIMPLY DONE!

POWER KNOWS NO PREJUDICE! THE SAVAGE WIELDS IT AS WELL AS THE CIVILIZED MAN!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH RESISTANCE!

THIS ONE KNOWS NO DEFEAT!

WITH ALMOST EFFORTLESS EASE, THE INFINITY MAN DISPATCHES THE REMAINING GRAVI-GUARD!

YOUR RULES DON'T APPLY TO ME, EVIL ONE!

19

WHAT RULES *DO* YOU OPERATE FROM, MISTER?

WHERE ARE THE *BOYS?*

THEY ARE *SAFE*-- FOR THE *PRESENT*-- LIKE ALL THINGS NOW LIVING WITH THE *GREAT* PERIL!

THIS GREAT PERIL COULDN'T BE NAMED-- *DARKSEID*-- COULD IT!

HOLOCAUST AND *DEATH* IS WHAT HE *SERVES!* THAT IS WHY HE ABDUCTED THE *GIRL*--

SHE IS ONE OF THE *FEW* WHOSE MIND CAN *FATHOM* THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!* *THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!*

RELEASE HER, *DARKSEID!* I KNOW YOU CAN *HEAR* ME! YOU ARE NEVER FAR FROM YOUR *TRAPS!*

RELEASE THE GIRL! HER MIND WILL *RESIST* ENSLAVEMENT BY YOUR MACHINES!

DON'T SHOUT--I AM HERE! YOU ARE *RIGHT!* THE GIRL'S MIND IS *UNIQUE!* IT WILL *NOT* INTERPRET THE EQUATION!

ALL OF MY ATTEMPTS AT FORCE HAVE *FAILED!*

IF YOU'VE *HARMED* HER, YOU SHALL *PAY,* DARKSEID!

NONSENSE! I HAVE NO FURTHER *NEED* OF HER! *THERE!* SHE *RISES!*

I RELEASE HER TO YOUR CUSTODY--

ONE OF THEM SHALL *YIELD* TO ME!

THERE ARE *OTHERS* WHO CAN SOLVE THE EQUATION!

--AND WHEN THE SECRET IS *MINE*, I SHALL *TEST* IT HERE! --SNUFF OUT *ALL* LIFE ON EARTH--WITH A *WORD!*

NOW, FAREWELL! I *LEAVE* AS I *CAME*-- WITH THE POWER TO *VANISH* AS QUICKLY AS I *APPEARED!*

H-HE'S *GONE!*

WAIT! THOSE TANKS BENEATH THE TABLE--

RADION BOMBS! DARKSEID'S OWN FORMULA! IF WE MOVE THE GIRL, THE BOMBS WILL *GO OFF!*

HE MEANT TO DESTROY US ALL!

THIS CALLS FOR *PERFECT TIMING!*

WHA--!

THE TRICK IS TO *OUT-SPEED* THE BOMBS' IGNITION--AND I THINK I CAN DO IT!

INCREASING TO LIGHTSPEED, SUPERMAN IS OUT OF RANGE WHEN THE EXPLOSION COMES...

MADE IT!--AND NONE TO SOON!

21

DARKSEID'S UNDERGROUND COMPLEX MUST HAVE BEEN *DESTROYED!*

YOUR LIGHTNING POWERS HAVE SERVED US *WELL!*

THIS GAME IS STILL A *MYSTERY* TO ME! BUT I KNOW THIS--IT'S A *DANGEROUS-- DEADLY* GAME!

IT IS *BIGGER* THAN YOU REALIZE! UNTIL I AM *NEEDED* AGAIN--I *DEPART!*

HEY! HOLD ON! I'VE GOT A *MILLION* QUESTIONS!

TAARU!

YOU CAN PUT YOUR QUESTIONS TO *US*, MISTER! YOU'RE A FRIEND!

THE *BOYS--* THEY'RE *BACK--!*

WE'VE GOT AN *ARRANGEMENT* WITH *THE INFINITY MAN!*

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER IS SAFE, THANKS TO *YOU!*

ASK ANYTHING!

ALRIGHT, I WILL! *HELP ME TO REACH SUPERTOWN!*

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SHOW OUR *GRATITUDE?*

THAT'S *EASY!* BUT *WHY* DO YOU *WANT* TO GO THERE NOW?

I-I NEED TO KNOW *MORE!* I'VE GOT TO SEE *SUPERTOWN--*

DARKSEID IS HERE! HE MUST BE STOPPED!

22

I TELL YOU THE *ACTION* IS *HERE!* --AND *YOU,* AND ALL OF *EARTH* ARE *INVOLVED!*

IF THERE IS *DANGER*--I'LL BE *BACK!*

NOW, WILL YOU DO AS I *ASK?*

BUT IF DARKSEID *CONQUERS*-- THERE WILL BE NOTHING-- *NOT* EVEN *SUPERTOWN!*

HE *WANTS* TO GO, BIG BEAR. AND THAT'S ALL IT TAKES-- A *DEEP DESIRE!*

--AND THE *BOOM TUBE!*

LISTEN--IT'S COMING *THROUGH NOW!*

YES--I HEAR *SOMETHING*--

IT'S *HERE,* FRIEND! AND YOU'VE *EARNED* THE TRIP!

BUT I HOPE YOU CAN *LIVE* WITH YOUR *CONSCIENCE*-- *LATER!*

DON'T, BIG BEAR! DON'T *SPOIL* HIS DREAM--NOW THAT IT IS A *REALITY!*

I--I *SEE IT!*

LET'S GO! WE'LL CARRY ON *WITHOUT* HIM!

IT WILL BE A *HARD* FIGHT! DARKSEID AND HIS *EVIL* MINIONS WILL BE *EVERYWHERE!* BUT WE'LL DO OUR JOB!

BOOM

SUPERMAN DOES NOT HEAR THE YOUNGSTERS DEPART--HE CAN ONLY SEE THE WONDER BEFORE HIM!

THE *BOOM TUBE* IS *FANTASTIC!* BUT IT'S *REAL,* ALRIGHT!

IT'S A DIMENSIONAL BRIDGE--AND I'M CROSSING IT!--

RIGHT NOW!

BUT DEEP WITHIN, SUPERMAN FEELS THE STING OF APPREHENSION...

DOES THE ANSWER REALLY LIE AHEAD OF ME? DARKSEID AND HIS HIDDEN TERRORS--THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION-- THE DANGER TO MANKIND--

AM I GOING THE WRONG WAY? IS EARTH THE BATTLEGROUND FOR SOME STRANGE SUPER-WAR?

IT COULD BE AS REAL AS THE BOOM TUBE!--AND I MAY BE DESERTING MANKIND WHEN IT NEEDS ME MOST!

I CAN'T GO ON! I CAN'T--

BOOOM

THERE IS A LOUD THUNDERCLAP--AND SUPERMAN FINDS HIMSELF BACK ON EARTH!

AND AS THE BOOM TUBE FADES, SUPERMAN CATCHES A GLIMPSE OF DISTANT, GLEAMING TOWERS...

THEN, LIKE A DREAM, THEY TOO FADE AND ARE GONE!

IT WAS THE WRONG TIME TO GO--

PERHAPS, SOMEDAY, I'LL TRY AGAIN... BUT THE TIME IS NOT NOW--NOT YET--

IN THE NEXT ISSUE... THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING The FOREVER PEOPLE BEGINS TO UNFOLD in:

SUPER-WAR!

STOP MANTIS! IS THE CRY OF A GREAT CITY--AT THE MERCY OF AN EVIL POWER VAMPIRE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MAY

NO. 2

READ DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

GO BACK TO YOUR FAR DOMAIN, INFINITY MAN! MANTIS IS YOUR MASTER, TOO!

ADDING TO THE ACTION--OUR NEW AGERS!

MARK MOONRIDER

BIG BEAR

VYKIN the BLACK

SERIFAN

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

HERE THEY ARE **AGAIN!**-- THE **YOUNG** STRANGERS FROM THAT PLACE BEYOND THE BLUE THEY CALL-- **SUPERTOWN!** ALTHOUGH THEIR BACKGROUND IS SHROUDED IN **MYSTERY,** THEY ARE ALREADY **EMBATTLED** ON **EARTH** AGAINST EMERGING FORCES OF AWESOME AND TERRIFYING NATURE! AND ARE WE IN THIS, TOO? WE MAY BE FRIEND OR FOE OF THE

FOREVER PEOPLE!

--BYSTANDERS OR PARTICIPANTS IN AN OMINOUS AND PERHAPS *FINAL*

SUPER WAR!

DIG THIS PLACE! IT'S GOT THE *INGREDIENTS* OF THE CAKE--BUT IT NEEDS *MORE* BAKING!

AND *LESS* NOISE!

I *LIKE* THIS CITY! IT'S *EXCITING!*

YES--BUT IT *ISN'T* SUPER-TOWN!

X-115

WRITTEN, DRAWN AND EDITED BY

Jack Kirby

INKED BY

COLLETTA

BEEE-EE-EEPP-BEEP-BEEP

THE NAME IS *BIG BEAR*, BROTHER! AND I ASK YOUR PATIENCE!

C'MON, *SMOKEY THE BEAR!* GET THAT CUSTOM-MADE *CONCRETE MIXER* OUTTA HERE!

WE ARE *NEW* IN YOUR CITY! WE WISH TO ESTABLISH *PROPER* COORDINATES-TO--

JOKE'S *OVER*, KIDS! NOW FIND A PARKING LOT FOR *WHATEVER* THAT THING IS!

MOTORIZED HIPPIES! HOW ABOUT THAT?

HOLD IT DOWN, FOLKS-- WE'LL HAVE THIS THING UNDER *CONTROL* IN A MINUTE!

DOO YA DOOTY, OFFICERS! WHY DON'T 'CHA BUST DOSE HIPPIES BEFORE DEY TIE UP DA WHOLE TOWN!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE *SUBWAY* TO CROSS THE STREET!

WHY DON'T THEY *AIRLIFT* THE HIPPIES OUT BY HELICOPTER?

YEAH! GET DOSE HIPPIES *UP* IN DE AIR, AN' MEBBE DEY'LL CANCEL OUT DA *SMOG!*

THE DIALECT IS *PRIMITIVE*, BROTHER! BUT THE HUMOR CRIES OUT FOR A *STRAIGHT MAN!*

TELL ME, MISTER CORN! *WHAT'S* A HIPPIE?

2

HA,HA--DAT'S EASY!

ALL YA GOTTA DO IS *SHOW* HIM A BATHTUB--AN' IF HE *RUNS*--HE'S A *HIPPIE!*

HAHAHAHA! IT'S LIKE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT WITH *ANCIENT VAUDEVILLE!*

THANK YOU, FOR THE *EXPERIENCE*, BROTHER!

CRUNCH!

EVEN THE BROTHER WAS OVERCOME BY THIS JOYOUS EMOTIONAL RELEASE!

OKAY! LAUGH THIS OFF! CLEAR OUT! CLEAR TRAFFIC! OR I TAKE YOU *IN!*

CLEAR OUT! CLEAR *TRAFFIC!* CLEAR OUT OF *SIGHT!* *GROOVY!*

WE'VE GOT TO *BYPASS* THIS COMMUNICATION PROBLEM!

ON BOARD, FOR EMERGENCY *PHASE-OUT!*

ACTIVATE SENSORS! SWEEP ON *WIDE* ARC AND PINPOINT *PROPER* LANDING AREA!

AREA *LOCATED!* AREA *LOCATED--IN!* STAND BY FOR--

THEN, IN THE NAME OF HIGH-FATHER, *EASE* US INTO PHASE-OUT *WITHOUT* JARRING THE UNIVERSE!

PHASE OUT!

FZOM

GOOD LORD! TH-THEY JUST-- *VANISHED!*

3

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BELOW THE CITY'S SURFACE, AN EVENT EVEN MORE BIZARRE AND OMINOUS BEGINS WITH A SCREAM OF AWESOME TERROR!!

AAAAAAA

...

OUT OF YOUR POWER-POD, MANTIS!

DID YOU THINK TO HIDE FROM DARKSEID?

DON'T ROUSE ME! IT IS NOT TIME! MY BODY WILL LOSE ITS PRECIOUS GAIN OF VOLTAGE!

DON'T WHINE! YOU ARE IN OUR MASTER'S PRESENCE!

AM I NOT ONE WITH YOU--AND ALL WHO LIVE ON APOKOLIPS?

ANSWER ME! ANSWER ME!

DARKSEID! HEAR ME! HELP ME!

4

YOU ARE A CREATURE OF *GREAT POWER, MANTIS!* BUT YOUR *BIOLOGY* EVER *BETRAYS* YOU!

THAT IS WHY **I** RULE ON *APOKOLIPS! DARKSEID NEVER* RESTS! HIS SHADOW FALLS *EVERY-WHERE!*

NOW THAT MY *ELITE* AND I BRING *APOKOLIPS* TO *EARTH*-- DID YOU NOT THINK WE WOULD TRACK *YOU* HERE?

EARTH IS MINE! MINE! I CAME HERE *FIRST!* YOU HAVE *NO* RIGHT--

FOOL! TAKE EARTH! ENSLAVE ALL OF MANKIND! BUT DO NOT CHALLENGE MY POWER HERE! FOR I SEEK ANOTHER PRIZE-- MEANT FOR *MYSELF* ALONE!

DONE!

THEN *RETURN* TO YOUR WRETCHED POD!

DONE!

UNLEASH THE TERRORS OF THE NIGHT! MAKE MAN *CRINGE!* MAKE HIM TREMBLE-- MAKE HIM ***FEAR!***

DONE!

*MEANWHILE, IN A DISTRICT OF THE CITY WHERE **ABANDONED** BUILDINGS WAIT FOR THE COMING OF **URBAN RENEWAL**--*

CONTACT *COMPLETED!*

WE'RE *PHASING IN!*

5

WELL! WE'VE MADE QUITE A JUMP!--FROM MAD AVENUE TO DESOLATION ROW!

BUT IT'S SO PEACE-FUL HERE!

WAIT! MOTHER BOX COMPUTES OUR SITUATION!

PING PING PING

MOTHER BOX CAN SAVE HER ADVICE! WE'RE NO LONGER CHILDREN!

MOTHER BOX PROTECTS US! WHEN SHE TALKS, WE LISTEN!

PING PING PING

THERE GO HER SOUND CIRCUITS--VOICING DANGER AGAIN!

BUT I SEE NOTHING THAT COULD HARM US!

HE CAN! MOTHER BOX SAYS SO!

BUT HE'S ONLY A CHILD! AN INVALID CHILD!

A-ARE YOU GUYS, U.F.O.'S?

I SAW THAT! A FLASH--AND YOU GUYS COMING OUT OF--THIN AIR!

WE CALL IT "PHASING"! I HOPE IT DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YOU!

IT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO TRAVEL!! HERE, MEN BUILD ROADS FROM WHAT THEY SEE--WE BUILD ROADS FROM WHAT OUR SENSORS SEE!

OH, WOW! I'VE HIT THE JACKPOT! YOU'RE FROM OUTTA THIS WORLD--AND YOU'RE REAL!

6

OF COURSE WE'RE REAL! *TRUTH* IS REAL! TRUTH LIVES *FOREVER*-- *WE'RE* THE *FOREVER PEOPLE!*

YOU SURE SPEAK SORTA *"FAR OUT"*-- BUT IT *ISN'T* FREAKY-- *NOTHING* LIKE THAT!

FIRE COMPA

THERE'S *NO* DANGER HERE! IT'S A *PERFECT* BASE FOR US--AND THE *SUPER-CYCLE* TOO!

SHE'S *BLOWING* HER CIRCUITS! LET'S *SCOUT* THIS PLACE!

MOTHER BOX IS *STILL* UNHAPPY! SHE'S ON *PANIC!*

PING PING PING PING PING PING PING

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU MOTORCYCLE SAVAGES! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF THAT BOY!

IT'S *UNCLE WILLIE!* HE'S THE *SECURITY GUARD* HERE!

THAT'S IT! THE *DANGER SOURCE!*

YOU BET I AM! AS LONG AS I HAVE *THIS*, WE *STAY* SECURE!

NOW, COME OVER *HERE, DONNIE* BOY-- HERE TO *MY* SIDE!

NO, UNCLE WILLIE, WE ARE *NOT* AS YOU SEE US... YOUR MIND AND HEART ARE *RACING*-- *SLOW THEM DOWN*-- *DOWN*--

THERE'S *NO* HASSLE, UNCLE WILLIE! THEY'RE *NOT* LIKE THE *GANGS* WHO COME HERE TO START *TROUBLE!*

MOTHER BOX CAN ACT--*SWIFTER* THAN HIS *WEAPON*--

NO--UNCLE WILLIE IS ONLY CONFUSED-- LIKE A MAN IN A *DREAM*--

BACK! BACK!

I MAY BE GETTING OLD-- BUT I *KNOW* YOUR TYPES! *I CAN SEE* THAT--THAT--

HE'S PUT DOWN HIS GUN! *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER* IS PROBING FOR *IMAGES--!*

YES--THE KIND OF IMAGES UNCLE WILLIE *KNOWS* AND *LIKES--*

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? YOU KIDS LOOK SO *DIFFERENT--* AND, YET, SO *FAMILIAR!*

WHY *SURE!* YOU USED TO KNOW *LOTS* OF KIDS LIKE US! *REMEMBER?* WE *NEVER* PASSED WITHOUT SAYING "*HELLO*"!

I'LL BE DASHED! YOU SEEM LIKE *NICE* ENOUGH KIDS AT THAT! BUT YOU'RE *NEW* IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, AREN'T YOU?

I AM CALLED *VYKIN THE BLACK!*

WE HAVE FUN NAMES!-- LIKE MINE IS *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!*

AND MINE IS *MOON-RIDER!*

I ANSWER TO *SERAFIN!*

I DON'T SEE ANY CHANGE IN YOU KIDS--BUT UNCLE WILLIE SURE *DOES!*

WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT TO STAY HERE!

THAT'S *EASY!* THERE ARE BLOCKS OF *EMPTY* APARTMENT BUILDINGS! HOW ABOUT IT, UNCLE WILLIE?

I'M AFRAID THAT MOST OF THEM ARE JUST *ROTTING, DANGEROUS SHELLS--*

BUT DONNIE AND I LIVE IN *NUMBER 309!* I'M SURE WE CAN FIND SOMETHING FOR YOU *THERE!*

GROOVY, UNCLE WILLIE! WE SURE CAN USE THE *COMPANY!*

8

AS NIGHT DEEPENS OVER THE CITY, DARK CLOUDS SWEEP ACROSS THE FACE OF THE MOON... THE WIND RISES AND MAN DESERTS THE STREETS!!

BONNNG

BOONNNG

EVEN MORE OMINOUS ARE THE SOUNDS IN PLACES WHERE THERE SHOULD BE THE LONG SILENCE OF ETERNITY...

EEEEEEEEEEEE

CREEEK

FOR BELOW THE EARTH, EVIL HAS FESTERED, AND WAITED-- AND GROWN STRONG!!

KKREEEAAAK

IT IS *TIME!* MY POWERS ARE AT *MAXIMUM* CHARGE!-- AND THE CITY WAITS--

--FOR THE COMING OF *MANTIS!*

HERE, I SHALL CARVE OUT THE *KINGDOM* I AM *DESTINED* FOR!

AGAINST *ALL* FOES!

9

AAAA-- THE *POWER* SURGES INSIDE ME-- *RUSHING* TO GET *OUT!*

--AND *DESTROYS* WHAT MY FINGERS *TOUCH!*

BARROM

THERE! IT WILL TAKE MERE SECONDS TO REACH THE SURFACE! THEN--

IF *DARKSEID DOESN'T* BREAK OUR PACT, I'LL BE LEFT *FREE* TO *CONQUER!*

MEANWHILE...

YOU'RE MAKING SOME *GREAT* FINDS, *BIG BEAR!* SOME OF THIS *FURNITURE* LEFT BEHIND BY *FORMER* TENANTS IS STILL IN *FAIR* SHAPE!

THIS IS PURE *CAMP!* IT'LL BE *GREAT* IN *OUR* ROOM!

YOU'VE FOUND ENOUGH TO FURNISH AN APARTMENT FOR *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!*

STAY *CLEAR*, DONNIE, WHILE I *EASE* THIS COUCH IN! *ART* MUST BE HANDLED WITH *CARE!*

I *DON'T* UNDERSTAND WHY UNCLE WILLIE CALLS THIS *JUNK!*

WHY, THAT BROKEN, OLD TELEVISION SET-- IT'S A *PURE* REPRESENTATION OF *EARLY*, POST ATOMIC, MIDDLE CLASS *HOME VISUALS!*

AND IT SHOWS *WESTERNS!* THEY'RE JUST *TOO MUCH!*

10

BUT *HOW* CAN YOU RECEIVE A PICTURE ON THAT SET, *SERAFIN?* IT'S A *MESS* INSIDE!

OH, I *KNOW* THAT! THE SERVICE PARTS ARE *BEYOND* REPAIR! I'M USING ONE OF *THESE* THINGS ON MY HAT!!

THEY LOOK LIKE SHINY, SILVER *BULLETS!* WHERE DID YOU GET THEM?

OUR POINT OF ORIGIN-- *SUPERTOWN*--A PART OF *NEW GENESIS*--THESE ARE SENSITIZERS, PROBES, --RECEIVERS AND SUCH--

WE CALL THEM *COSMIC CARTRIDGES!* THEY'RE *SENSITIVE* TO THE UNIVERSE--TO ITS *LARGEST* AND *SMALLEST* LIMITS--

HERE-- *HOLD* ONE!

I'D RATHER HEAR *MORE* ABOUT *SUPERTOWN* AND *NEW GENESIS!*-- BUT I'LL TRY THIS--!!

I-IT FEELS *WARM*--LIKE IT WAS *ALIVE!*-- LIKE IT WAS *ME!*

--AND I-I'M *EVERYWHERE* AT ONCE--

I-I SEE--*EVERYTHING*-- AND EVERYTHING *MOVES*-- AND MAKES A KIND OF *BEAUTIFUL* NOISE--

HARMONY IS THE WORD, DONNIE!--YOU'RE LISTENING TO-- *ALL THERE IS!*

SERAFIN-- WHY HAVE YOU FOREVER PEOPLE COME HERE?

QUIET, DONNIE!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A LATE NEWS BULLETIN! THE CITY, AT THIS MOMENT, IS IN A STATE OF CRISIS!

A POWERFUL BEING OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN AND NATURE IS CAUSING GREAT HAVOC! STAY IN YOUR HOMES-- THE POLICE ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN TO BRING HIM UNDER CONTROL!

MANTIS--OF APOKOLIPS!

HE'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE'RE HERE, DONNIE! WHERE ARE MOONRIDER AND THE REST?

TH-THEY'RE HAVING SOME CHOW WITH UNCLE WILLIE!

WITH POUNDING HEART, SERAFIN REACHES HIS COMPANIONS!

BAD NEWS?

THE WORST!

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU IN ONE WORD-- MANTIS!

THAT LEAPING MONSTER?!! HERE? IN THE CITY?

HE IS FEARED AS MUCH AS DARKSEID HIMSELF!

12

I, FOR ONE, WILL TAKE ON MANTIS OR ANY OTHER EVIL DEMON FROM APOKOLIPS-- BUT MANTIS IS--

I KNOW, BIG BEAR-- WE'LL NEED MORE POWER THAN IS NOW AMONG US-- TO EQUAL WHAT MANTIS CAN UNLEASH!

WE CAN SUMMON ONE WHO CAN STOP HIM--

THE INFINITY MAN! HE MUST BE CALLED!

STAY HERE, WITH YOUR UNCLE, YOUNG FRIEND! WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER!

MOTHER BOX HEARS US! SHE PRIMES FOR THE RITUAL!

PING PING PING

SOON--OUTSIDE...

PING PING PING PING

RISE, MOTHER BOX! SEND OUT YOUR SIGNAL TO THE FARTHEST REACHES--

--WHERE EVEN ALL NATURAL LAW THINS AND FADES--

YET, LIFE EXISTS!

MAKE US ONE WITH THAT LIFE! LET HIM DISPLACE US--

LET HIM ENTER ON THE POWER OF THE WORD--

--EVEN AS WE VANISH WHEN THE WORD IS SAID--

PING PING PING PING PING

TAARUU!

THERE IS AN AWESOME, INDESCRIBABLE CRASH OF COSMIC THUNDER! THEN--

THOSE WHO SUMMON THE INFINITY MAN--

SUMMON JUSTICE!

THIS CITY IS BESIEGED! MY MIND REACHES OUT FOR THE THOUGHT WAVES OF THE AGGRESSOR!...

I CAN SENSE HIS FIERY HUNGER FOR CONQUEST AND POWER!

THIS WILL BE A BATTLE WORTHY OF GIANTS! AND, ON THE THRUST OF THE FORCES OF THE INFINITE, I RIDE TO PUT AN END TO HIS MADNESS!

14

BUT AT THAT VERY INSTANT--

POUR IT ON, MEN! WE'VE GOT TO USE ALL THE FIRE-POWER WE HAVE!

THESE NEW, HEAVY-CALIBER RIFLES SHOULD STOP HIM-- BUT THEY DON'T!

PEEOOW

RATATAT

BRATATAT

PEEOOW

THAT CHARACTER IS NEVER LONG ENOUGH IN ONE SPOT TO STOP A SALVO!

SSKKEEEEEEEE

POW

POW

HEAR ME BELOW! MANTIS IS THROUGH PLAYING GAMES!

KAF

KAF

KAF

WITH FRIGHTENING EASE, MANTIS TEARS A LARGE DISPLAY SIGN LOOSE FROM ITS MOORINGS!

LOOK SHARPLY! WHATEVER OBJECT I TOUCH BECOMES A TERMINAL OF DEADLY POWER!

AN INCREDIBLE BURST OF CHARGED ATOMS LEAPS FROM MANTIS TO THE METAL OF THE SIGN! THEN--

THE SIGN IS NOW A WEAPON-- SEETHING WITH FIERY DEATH! SEE FOR YOURSELF! HA HA HA HA HA!

15

FLOOWWAM

TAKE COVER, MEN!

OUR BEST MARKSMEN ARE GOING INTO ACTION!

STUBBORN, UNYIELDING MORTALS! AS MY ANGER GROWS, SO SHALL MY ACTS OF TERROR!

YOUR CRIMES END HERE AND NOW!

THE INFINITY MAN IS YOUR MATCH, MANTIS!

THOMP

THE FOLLOWING BLOW HURLS MANTIS AGAINST A ROOF WALL...

AAAAAA! NO! NO!

WHAAKK

THUS, THE WALL, CHARGED BY HIS OWN POWER, BLASTS MANTIS OUTWARD!!

BLADAMM

16

MANTIS *ISN'T* DEFEATED *THAT* EASILY!

I RECOVER *QUICKLY, INFINITY MAN*-- WITH A *SPEED* AND *WEAPON* YOU *WON'T* LIKE!

MY TOUCH IS ALSO *COLD, INFINITY MAN!*

UH--MY TEMPERA-TURE *DROPS* WITH TERRIFYING *RAPIDITY!*

I CAN TRANSMIT COLD AND FROST, THE LIKES OF WHICH CAN *HOLD* GIANT WORLDS IN THE *GRIP* OF *ICY DEATH!*

HIS WORDS ARE TRUE! MY LIFE FUNCTIONS HAVE DWINDLED TO MICRO-SCOPIC MINIMUM!

HAHAHAHA--AND NOW, *MANTIS LEAVES* YOU-- TO *GATHER* THE FRUITS OF *VICTORY!*

FIRST, I SHALL BRING THIS CITY TO ITS *KNEES!*

WHEN MY WORK IS *DONE*, THE OTHERS WHO *WITNESS* ITS FATE WILL CAPITULATE *WITHOUT* RESISTANCE!

FROM HIS UNSEEN VANTAGE POINT, AN EQUALLY SINISTER POWER WATCHES-- AND BROODS--AND COOLLY WAITS...

MANTIS DOES *WELL*, INDEED! BUT HE FIGHTS FOR *TAWDRY* GOALS!

17

WHILE I WOULD BE THE MASTER OF ALL THAT EXISTS!

WHAT IS THE CITY'S FEAR QUOTIENT, NOW, DESAAD!

SPIRALLING TO A LOVELY HIGH PITCH, O DARKSEID! I CAN FEEL THEM-- LIKE CRASHING SURF--WONDERFUL WAVES OF RAW FEAR!

MANTIS IS INSPIRING GREAT RESULTS! HE'LL SHAKE EVERY MIND IN THAT CITY TO ITS VERY ROOTS!

ESPECIALLY THE MIND WE SEEK TO CONTACT--THE ONE THAT MUST BE MADE TO YIELD ITS SECRET--THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!

MEANWHILE, MANTIS MOUNTS AN EVEN GREATER SHOW OF FORCE!

SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE TO STOP HIM! THEY'RE GOING TO NEED PLANES --TANKS--

SURRENDER! BOW TO MY WILL!--OR I WILL SPARE NOTHING-- NO ONE!

SAVE US! SAVE US!

VERY WELL! PERHAPS THE THERMAL TOUCH WILL ADD MORE CRACKS TO YOUR CRUMBLING BRAVADO!

SEE HOW STEEL AND CONCRETE TURN TO RIVERS OF FLOWING HEAT!

18

THEY COURSE DOWN YOUR *PROUD* STRUCTURES, AND CUT WHITE-HOT TRAILS IN YOUR STREETS!

SSSSSSSS

AN *EMPTY* VEHICLE OF GREAT *TONNAGE* LIES IN THEIR PATH! *SEE* HOW IT FLARES!

WAAHOMM

SURRENDER! YIELD TO MANTIS! SHOW YOUR WORLD HOW TO SEEK *MERCY* FROM YOUR NEW RULER!

IN THE WEIRD LIGHT CAST BY THE SPREADING HOLOCAUST, THE CITY SEEMS TO HOLD ITS BREATH IN TERRIFIED SUSPENSE! BUT THERE IS ONE WHO PREPARES TO ACT!

MANTIS HAS ENTOMBED ME IN AN INDE-STRUCTIBLE PRISON OF NATURAL FORCE!--

BUT I CALL UPON POWERS GAINED IN DISTANT REGIONS-- WHERE NATURAL LAWS DO NOT APPLY!

I'VE NOW MARSHALLED SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO USE THEM!

I CAN MANIPULATE THE ATOMS OF THIS FRIGI-BLOCK-- RE-STRUCTURE IT-- SO I AM FREED!

AND *NOW, MANTIS--*

YOUR VICTORY IS *FAR* FROM *WON!*

19

GIVE BATTLE, YOU FIEND OF THE DEEPEST PITS! YOUR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH IS *NOT* YET RIPE!

MY PATIENCE IS AT AN *END!* *FIRST* I SHALL *DESTROY* THIS CITY!--

FIRST YOU SHALL ANSWER TO *ME!* *STAND AND FIGHT!*

THEN HAVE IT *YOUR* WAY-- *INFINITY MAN!*

MY *TOUCH* NOW *DETONATES* *ANTI-MATTER* BLASTS THROUGH YOUR VERY BEING!

UGH--

IT'S ENOUGH TO *SHATTER* STAR SYSTEMS!

BUT ONE OF *YOUR* POWERS NEEDS A *GREATER*, MORE *LETHAL* CHARGE!

POW

YOU *HESITATED* TO GLOAT, *MANTIS!* IT WAS YOUR *UNDOING!*

TRY THIS *INFINI-BEAM!* IT WILL *RELEASE* YOUR STORED ENERGY IN *ONE VAST RUSH!*

20

MANTIS REELS MADLY ACROSS THE NIGHT SKY, LIKE THE DARK HEAD OF SOME BERSERK COMET-- STRUCK A FATAL BLOW--

I CAN'T CONTROL MY POWER-- CAN'T KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING--

LOOK! MANTIS IS IN TROUBLE! HE CAN'T RECOVER!

MY ENERGY HAS DRAINED TO DANGER LEVEL-- I'M GROWING WEAK--WEAK--

I SHALL BE HELPLESS BEFORE MY ENEMIES--

WE'RE SAVED! THE LAW IS CLOSING IN ON HIM!

--MUST USE WHAT POWER I HAVE LEFT TO RETURN TO MY POWER-POD!

THE DAWN IS BREAKING--AND MANTIS FLEES!

THE CITY IS SAFE FROM HIS ATTACK!

THOSE WHO SUMMONED THE INFINITY MAN-- MUST NOW REPLACE HIM!

FWOW

WOW! HE'S GONE--AND WE'VE COME BACK--

BUT WE WERE ONE--AND SO, SHARED HIS EXPERIENCE!

IT IS *WAR* IN *EARNEST,* NOW! --AND *EARTH* IS THE BATTLE-GROUND FOR *TWO* GREAT FORCES!

WHERE SHALL FATE LEAD HER-- TO *NEW GENESIS* -- OR *APOKOLIPS!*

MANTIS WANTS ONLY THE *EGO* POWER OF THE *CONQUEROR!*

BUT IT'S *DARKSEID* THE UNIVERSE MUST *TRULY* FEAR!

HE WANTS THE *ULTIMATE* POWER!

AND IT IS *HERE*--ON *EARTH*--IN THE MIND OF SOME-ONE *NAMELESS*--

THE *ABILITY* TO SOLVE--AND PUT INTO ACTION --THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!*

MEANWHILE, HAVING BARELY REACHED THE SECURITY OF HIS POWER-POD..,

THE *POD!* THE *COOL,* DARK POD! *MANTIS* MUST REST NOW! *REST*--IN ORDER TO GAIN STRENGTH-- TO *REGAIN* POWER--

FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE DEEP CRYPT A FIGURE, BROODING MENACE, DETACHES ITSELF...

MANTIS *FIGHTS* HARD--AND *FAILS* HARD--

HE *CANNOT* LEARN TO *PLAN!*

BUT *DARKSEID WAITS* LIKE SILENT STONE... WAITS AND PLANS TO FLUSH HIS *PRIZE* FROM ITS COVER, *DESAAD*--

AND, IF YOU WOULD WREST THE *SECRET* FROM HIM-- GIVE HIM-- TO *ME!*

22

DON'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE

FOREVER PEOPLE!

GET IT FROM THE PRINTER IF YOU CAN--FOR AN ABSOLUTELY SPINE-TINGLING, SPIDER-CRAWLING NEW CONCEPT IN MENACE--

READ "LIFE VERSUS ANTI-LIFE!"

THEY BELIEVE! THEY JUDGE! THEY KILL!

BEWARE OF THE JUSTIFIERS

THEIR NEXT VICTIM MAY BE YOU!--OR

FOREVER PEOPLE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

JULY

NO. 3

30160

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

LIVE BY MY RULES-- OR DIE!

IT'S THE BRAINCHILD OF GLORIOUS GODFREY

IF YOU FEAR LIFE

GODFREY WILL SAVE YOU WITH--

ANTI-LIFE!

"THAT IS THE GREAT THING ABOUT OUR MOVEMENT--THAT THESE MEMBERS ARE UNIFORM NOT ONLY IN IDEAS, BUT, EVEN, THE FACIAL EXPRESSION IS ALMOST THE SAME!"--**ADOLF HITLER**

YESSIR! IT'S THE *TRUTH!* GLORIOUS GODFREY IS SPEAKING THE *TRUTH!*

HE'S *VOICING* WHAT'S IN OUR HEARTS!

TELL IT, GODFREY! TELL US HOW OUR *PRIDE* IS BEING *ATTACKED* AND *DRAGGED* IN THE DUST!

IT'S THE *OTHERS,* GODFREY! THOSE WHO *DON'T* THINK RIGHT!

THIS IS *OUR* WORLD! *OUR* WORLD! THEY HAVE *NO* RIGHT TO *MEDDLE* WITH IT!

X-140

THE ONE WHO **SEEKS** BELIEVERS MUST BE A BELIEVER **HIMSELF!** AND SUCH A STRIKING AND **VIGOROUS** DYNAMO OF BELIEF IS **GLORIOUS GODFREY!** IN A TROUBLED, **FEARFUL** WORLD HE FACES HIS AUDIENCE WITH **HIS** TRUTH AND FIRE!--WHICH IS MAGNIFIED BY AN **AWE-INSPIRING** SETTING!

I *HEAR* YOU, RIGHT THINKERS! YOU'RE SHOUTING *ANTI-LIFE*-- THE *POSITIVE* BELIEF!

LISTEN, AS THE *GREAT* ORGAN CATCHES YOUR WORDS AND FINDS THE *WONDER-FUL* MUSIC IN THEM!

LIFE HAS PITFALLS! ANTI-LIFE IS PROTECTION

LIFE WILL MAKE YOU **DOUBT!** **ANTI-LIFE** WILL MAKE YOU **RIGHT!**

YOU CAN JUSTIFY *ANY-THING* WITH *ANTI-LIFE!*

JUDGE OTHERS! ENSLAVE OTHERS! KILL OTHERS!

ANTI-LIFE WILL GIVE YOU THE **RIGHT!**

AND WHAT AM I, *GLORIOUS GODFREY*, BUT *ANOTHER* POOR INSTRUMENT THAT VIBRATES TO YOUR MESSAGE? AND I SAY, COME TO ME! AND I SHALL GIVE YOU THE POWER TO WIELD *DEATH!*

WIELD *DEATH!* WIELD *PAIN!* YOU CAN BE *JUSTIFIED*-- IF YOU WEAR ONE OF THESE!

2

3

YES, FRIENDS! THOUGH *LIFE* IS EVER FILLED WITH THOSE WHO THREATEN US, IT IS *ANTI-LIFE* WHICH GIVES US THE POWER TO *ELIMINATE* THEM!

THE *HOLOCAUST* IS COMING! THE DAY OF *APOKOLIPS* ON EARTH! *THE DAY OF DARKSEID*, WHO BRINGS THIS POWER FOR ONLY *US* TO USE!

YES, IT IS HIS *GIFT* TO US, FRIENDS! *THE COSMIC HUNTING LICENSE!* THE *RIGHT* TO POINT THE *FINGER* OR THE *GUN!*

WHO CAN STAND AGAINST US, FRIENDS?

CERTAINLY *NOT* THE OTHERS! THEY CAN BE *RECOGNIZED* FOR WHAT THEY ARE! BUT NOT US, FRIENDS, *NOT US!*

WHEN WE WEAR THIS HELMET, WE FEEL *UNIFIED! GLORIFIED! JUSTIFIED!*

STEP UP, FRIENDS! TAKE YOUR HELMET! BE *SUPERIOR!* BE *FIERCE!* BE A *JUSTIFIER!*

IT'S DARKSEID'S GIFT OF ANTI-LIFE--IT'S THE "*HAPPINESS PACKAGE!*"

4

THUS, APOKOLIPS MAKES CONTACT WITH EARTH! THUS, THE HARBINGERS OF HOLOCAUST LINK UP WITH THE HUMAN MINDS AND HEARTS THAT WAIT TO ACT IN CHAOS! LIKE THE ANCIENT WITCHDOCTORS OF OLD, GLORIOUS GODFREY SOUNDS THE CLARION CALL AND BEGINS THE DANCE OF DEATH IN MODERN TIMES! THE MESSAGE OF ANTI-LIFE IS POWERFUL!--AND ITS DISCIPLES MUST STRIKE FIRST AT THE--

Read LIFE vs. ANTI-LIFE!

FOREVER PEOPLE

DEMONS OF APOKOLIPS! A JUSTIFIER!

HE'S GOT DONNIE!

WHERE ARE YOUR FRIENDS, BOY? TELL ME, YOU LITTLE GARBAGE!--OR I'LL KILL YOU!

LET ME GO! Y-YOU'RE HURTING ME!

WRITTEN, DRAWN AND EDITED BY: JACK KIRBY

INKED BY: VINCE COLLETTA

5

MOTHER BOX HAS BENT THE LIGHT AROUND US-- SCATTERED THE SOUND VIBRATIONS!

THE JUSTIFIER CAN'T SEE OR HEAR US--BUT-

I KNOW--I KNOW HE'LL KILL DONNIE--

CREATE AN ILLUSION, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!-- CONFUSE HIM!

PING PING PING

WHERE ARE THE FOREVER PEOPLE, LITTLE SWINE? TELL ME! TELL ME!

WE'LL TELL YOU, BROTHER!

WHA-? WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE JUSTIFIER HELMETS?

NO-- AAAAA!

PING-- PING-- PING-- PING

FLUNG MERCILESSLY TO CERTAIN INJURY, THE INVALID BOY FINDS HIS FALL SUDDENLY ARRESTED IN MID-AIR!

VYKIN, THE BLACK!

DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! MOTHER BOX ACTS TO HELP YOU!

PING PING PING PING

AND MOONRIDER, TOO! HANG ON, DONNIE!

WE'VE GOT DONNIE! BOLT FOR THE BLUE!

THE QUESTION IS--CAN WE MAKE IT?

IF THAT JUSTIFIER WAS SENT HERE TO *DESTROY* US--THERE IS ONLY *ONE* WAY HE CAN GET US ALL IN *ONE* STROKE!

THERE IS *NO* STOPPING A *JUSTIFIER!* HE CAN JUSTIFY HIS OWN *DEATH!*

THE *ANTI-LIFE* PRINCIPLE IS NOW *PART* OF HIM!

HE'S *WIRED* TO EXPLODE! THE JUSTIFIER IS A *HUMAN BOMB!*

YES! *HE* MUST *DIE*--IN ORDER TO DESTROY ALL OF *US!*

YOU *TRICKY*, YOUNG DOGS! YOU *WON'T* GET FAR! WHEN I JERK THIS IGNITER YOU *DIE!*

THE BOMB I CARRY WAS *NOT* MADE ON EARTH!

WHAT IS CONCEIVED ON *APOKOLIPS* CAN ELIMINATE THOSE FROM *NEW GENESIS!*

DIE!

WAHAAM

THE GROUND HAS BEEN DUG OUT HERE BY *BULLDOZERS!*

DIVE FOR COVER!

RRRAA-BOWWM

THE BOMB EMITS *OMEGA* RAYS! EARTHMEN WOULD DISINTE-GRATE *INSTANTLY!*

WE STILL HAVE ONE *MINI-SECOND!*

*ALTHOUGH **HIDING** IN AN ABANDONED DISTRICT OF A CITY IN THE PROCESS OF URBAN RENEWAL, THE FOREVER PEOPLE HAVE **NOT** FOUND SANCTUARY FROM DANGER!*

IT'S *OVER!* WE'RE *ALIVE!*

THE JUSTIFIER DIED *WILLINGLY*-- BUT IN *VAIN!*

BUT HIS DEATH TELLS US *MANY* THINGS!

ALL FROM *NEW GENESIS*, WHO HAVE COME TO EARTH-- ARE BEING SOUGHT OUT-- FOR *DEATH!*

AND THE *ONE* WHO SENT THE JUSTIFIER TO KILL US--CAN ONLY BE-- *GLORIOUS GODFREY!*

8

THEN, AS IF RESPONDING TO A SILENT AGREEMENT, THE FOREVER PEOPLE MAKE READY TO DEPART!

WE MUST LEAVE, DONNIE! WE WILL BE BACK--IF WE CAN--

I'LL WARM UP THE SUPER CYCLE!

B-BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

DONNIE-- LIFE IS GOOD! LIVE IT FOR OTHERS-- NOT AGAINST THEM! IN THAT WAY, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE CLOSE TO US!

BARRIER THIS PLACE, VYKIN! A JUSTIFIER MAY COME AGAIN!

HE'LL BE A TARGET FOR DEADLY MICRON PARTICLES! MOTHER BOX FILLS THE AIR WITH THEM!

PING--

PING

PING

THE PARTICLES ARE COMPUTED NOT TO HARM THE BOY!

ON BOARD! ON BOARD!

GOOD-BYE, DONNIE! WE LEAVE YOU WHAT CANNOT DIE--LOVE! FRIENDSHIP!

IT IS SO IN NEW GENESIS! IT CAN BE HERE!

YOU MUST COME BACK! YOU MUST!

PREPARING FOR PHASE-OUT!

GET YOUR CO-ORDINATES FROM MOTHER BOX AND WORK THEM INTO THE CYCLE'S COMPUTERS!

WHEREVER GLORIOUS GODFREY AND HIS JUSTIFIERS ARE--MOTHER BOX WILL REACH OUT AND FIND THEM!

IS THERE ANY REACTION SIGNAL? READ IT OFF!

PING PING PING PING PING

IT'S COMING! REVELATIONISTS LIKE GODFREY HAVE STRONG EMOTION FLOWS! MOTHER BOX IS PICKING HIS UP!

VYKIN REPEATS WHAT MOTHER BOX REGISTERS AS BIG BEAR FEEDS THE INFORMATION INTO HIS HANDLE-BAR COMPUTER!!!

GOT IT ALL?

IT'S IN!

I HEAR IT ON INTER-COM!

PHASE OUT WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER, BIG BEAR! AND DON'T JOLT US LOOSE FROM OUR TEETH!

YOU'VE STILL GOT YOURS, MOON-RIDER! AND PLENTY OF LIP, TOO!

PHASE OUT! GRAB THE ELECTRON ROAD!

WE'RE ON IT!

SFAK!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE AND THEIR VEHICLE BECOME STREAKING PHANTOMS--SPEEDING ALONG ON THE FARTHEST EDGE OF HUMAN VISION!

THE PULL IS STRONG! WE'RE RIGHT ON TRACK!

I COULD SWEAR I SAW SOMETHING!

10

BUT, AT THAT MOMENT, SWOOPING DOWN UPON THE **UNSUSPECTING** CITY--

THIS IS THE PART OF TOWN WE WANT! THE PEOPLE WE'VE CHOSEN AS **TARGETS** LIVE HERE!

MOVE IN **SWIFTLY!** BEFORE THE SWINE **REALIZE** WHAT'S HAPPENING!

SEIZE AS MANY AS YOU CAN!

DON'T BOTHER TO DISCRIMINATE! THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE AS HATED AS THE MEN!

BREAK IN THE DOORS!

WASTE **NO** TIME ON MERCY! **DRAG** THEM OUT! TREAT THEM **ROUGH!**

BAM BAM

LISTEN TO THEIR CRIES! I'VE BEEN **WAITING** TO DO THIS FOR YEARS!

GET GOING! WE'LL **SHOW** WHAT WE DO WITH YOUR KIND!

HELP! HELP! STOP THIS!

HELP! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?

SHUT UP! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT ANIMALS!

GET IN THAT VAN! STOP SHOUTING AND GET IN!

WE'VE GOT ALL ON THIS LIST! NOW, TAKE OFF, BEFORE THE POLICE INTERFERE!

ANTI-LIFE WORKS! WE'RE JUSTIFIED IN RIDDING THE CITY OF THIS HUMAN TRASH!

THE CITY SHOULD THANK US!

AND, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN--

PUT DOWN THOSE DECADENT BOOKS! GET OUT OF THIS LIBRARY!

THE NONSENSE STORED IN THIS PLACE SHALL NEVER POLLUTE ANOTHER MIND!

YOU NEED KNOW NO MORE THAN THE PROPER THINGS!

WHO BUT MYSELF IS JUSTIFIED IN BURNING DOWN THIS LIBRARY?

CALL THE POLICE! THIS GUY IS A DANGEROUS NUT!

12

FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS, **GLORIOUS GODFREY** WATCHES HIS **JUSTIFIERS** IN ACTION AS HE PREPARES FOR A **NEW** AUDIENCE!

YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, GODFREY! YOU'LL **SWEEP** YOUR NEW AUDIENCE OFF ITS FEET!

MY LITTLE LEGION IS DOING WELL, TOO! THERE'S ONE OF THEM DEFACING A STORE WITH AN **"S"** FOR SCAPEGOAT!

ANTI-LIFE IS A HEADY, **EXHILARATING** EXPERIENCE, GODFREY! THEY'RE IN **ECSTASY!**

YES, THEY NO LONGER **THINK!** THEY REVEL IN VIOLENT **EMOTION!** THEY WILL DO ANYTHING I SAY-- IN ORDER TO **FEED** THEIR EMOTION!

THEY ARE NOW NO MORE THAN **ZOMBIES** IN **MY** CONTROL!

GODFREY! THE SCREEN IMAGE IS **GONE--!** IT NOW REGISTERS A **MOVING** BLIP!

IT CAN ONLY BE A **PHASING** VEHICLE! WE'VE GOT VISITORS **NOT** NATIVE TO EARTH!

IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF OUR JUSTIFIERS HAS **FAILED** IN HIS MISSION TO KILL SOME OF OUR **OPPOSITION!**

13

I SUPPOSE THEY'RE WELCOME TO DIE *HERE*, IF THEY WISH! OUR JUSTIFIERS WILL *SEE* TO THAT--*WON'T* THEY?

AS LONG AS *I* COMMAND THEM, THE JUSTIFIERS WILL DO THEIR *DUTY*, GODFREY!

I KNEW I PICKED THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB! YOU WERE A *NOBODY* BEFORE ANTI-LIFE GAVE YOU *POWER!*

NO HARM SHALL COME TO YOU, GODFREY! I AM *TIRELESS* IN *YOUR* SERVICE!

*ON A NEARBY HILLSIDE, THERE IS THE **HUM** OF DESCENT--THE **FLASH** OF A MATERIALIZING FORM...*

I'M PHASING IN AS YOU ORDERED, MOON-RIDER!

THIS SPOT WILL DO FOR OBSERVING!

THERE IT IS! A GIANT TENT--THE TRADITIONAL SETTING FOR GLORIOUS GODFREY'S REVELATIONS!

AND THERE BELOW, ARE THE BUSLOADS OF DISCONTENTS ARRIVING TO HEAR THOSE REVELATIONS!

PING PING PING PING

BE *CAREFUL*, BOYS!

14

MOTHER BOX *AGREES!* THE GREAT TENT IS *HEAVILY* GUARDED!

BY *JUSTIFIERS* WITH *APOKOLIPS* WEAPONS, NO DOUBT!

THEY MAY BE READY FOR US! BUT NOT FOR THE *INFINITY MAN!*

MOTHER BOX *READS* YOU! SHE *RISES* IN READINESS FOR THE *"RITUAL"!*

IT IS THE RITUAL THROUGH WHICH THE *INFINITY MAN* CAN COME *HERE!*

MOTHER BOX SENDS OUT THE *SIGNAL* TO THE *FARTHEST* REACHES OF INFINITY!

MOTHER BOX *LINKS* US WITH *HIM!*

WE'RE ONE WITH THE *INFINITY MAN!*

AS ONE WE SAY THE *WORD* OF *EXCHANGE!*

TAARU!

AS THE THUNDEROUS ECHOES SUBSIDE, THE FOREVER PEOPLE ARE GONE-- AND IN THEIR PLACE IS--THE INFINITY MAN!

WHAT THE *FOREVER PEOPLE* KNOW--*I* KNOW! THEIR OBJECTIVE IS *MINE!*

I AM *CALLED!* I AM *HERE!* I AM PRIMED TO *ACT!*

15

THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES FOR ME! DIMENSIONS ARE *OPEN* DOORS--

I MASTER THE *EXPANSION* OF ATOMS! THEY *PART*--AND ALLOW ME *PASSAGE!*

EARTH AND STONE BECOME AS *FLUID* AS SEA WATERS--AND I MOVE THROUGH THEM AS DOES A *SWIMMER* IN THE BLUE DEEPS!

I CAN *SENSE* ALL *DETECTION* DEVICES AND SHALL *CANCEL* OUT THEIR BEAMS!

THE GRIM, SILENT CROWD, EVER SEEKING THE ANSWERS TO ITS DISCONTENT, ENTERS THE GIANT TENT OF GLORIOUS GODFREY!--AND SO DOES THE INFINITY MAN!

THE GUARDS ARE *UNAWARE* THAT I AM *BYPASSING* THEM!

INSIDE THE GIANT TENT, GLORIOUS GODFREY EXHORTS THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR ANTI-LIFE! THEN--

HOLD, FRIENDS! ONE MOMENT!

WHA--! A *GHOST*--RISING FROM THE GROUND!

THE INTRUDER GROWS *SOLID! OMEGA* SHOTS CAN GET HIM *NOW!*

BLAST HIM! *BLAST HIM! PROTECT* GLORIOUS GODFREY!

16

THE INFINITY MAN LOCKS ON THE FLIGHT OF THE DEADLY BULLETS--TAKES OVER THEIR MANEUVERING--PROCEEDS TO CONTROL THEM--

THEN, HE TURNS THEM ON HIS ATTACKERS!

YOU *FOOL!* DO YOU THINK YOUR SPECTACULAR *GIMMICKRY* CAN STOP THIS OPERATION? THE FORCES OF *APOKOLIPS* ARE MANY!-- AND *MIGHTY!*

YOUR SECRET IS *WIND,* GODFREY! AN *EVIL* WIND THAT RUSHES FROM YOUR *THROAT--*

--AND THIS *DEMON'S* ORGAN! WHICH MUST BE *DESTROYED!*

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!

17

ITS SONIC CHORDS WILL NO LONGER STIMULATE THE BRUTE INSTINCTS THAT DRIVE MEN INTO YOUR SERVICE!

ZZZOWWSSHHH

YOU CONTROL THE NATURAL FORCES AS ONE WOULD INSTRUMENTS! BUT YOU STILL CANNOT STOP ME!

WE SHALL FIND OUT, GODFREY-- RIGHT NOW!

NOT YET, WONDROUS ONE! YOU SHALL NOT GET THE CHANCE! TURN ABOUT! LOOK AT ME!

THAT VOICE! IT CHILLS THE SPIRIT--LIKE THE COMING DOOM OF ALL LIVING THINGS!

THIS IS NOT GODFREY YOU FACE, BUT GREAT, CONSUMMATE POWER-- SO DEVASTATING--THAT IT ROCKS EVEN ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF!

DARKSEID! RULER OF APOKOLIPS! MASTER OF THE HOLOCAUST!

I PROBE DEEP AND SWIFT! YOUR WEAKNESS IS IN YOUR COMPLEX STRUCTURE! YOU ARE ONE-- AND MANY--

I-I CAN'T MOVE! I AM HELD BY HIS EYES!

18

I *BREAK* THIS *STRANGE* FUSION OF BEINGS! I *THRUST* YOU BACK-- BACK *BEYOND* THE FINITE!

NO! NO! I *CANNOT* HOLD MY PRESENCE HERE!

I GAVE YOU *NO* CHANCE TO FIGHT BACK! I STRUCK WITH THE *FULL* FORCE OF MY PROBE!

FADE! VANISH! LEAVE YOUR SPACE FOR THE *RETURN* OF THOSE WHO ARE LINKED WITH YOU!

KARRAK

WELCOME BACK! THE *YOUNG* OF *NEW GENESIS* WILL BE *EASIER* TO DEAL WITH!

DARKSEID! DO YOUR *WORST!* WE'RE *NOT* AFRAID!

OF COURSE NOT! IT WOULD *PAIN* ME DEEPLY TO DEAL *HARSHLY* WITH YOU! THAT IS WHY I KEEP SUCH AS *DESAAD* AT MY SIDE!

I *DON'T* MIND PLAYING GAMES IN THE SLIGHTEST! *HERE!* TRY THIS TOY! *FUN,* ISN'T IT?

AAAA AA A

ZZZZ SSHH

19

HA! HA! HA! THEY *YELPED* LOUDLY BEFORE THEY *COLLAPSED!* MY *NERVE BEAMS* INSPIRE SUCH REACTIONS!

OPEN THOSE DOORS! LOAD THESE ENEMIES OF APOKOLIPS ABOARD ONE OF OUR *DEPARTING* AERO-VANS!

NO NEED TO TREAT THEM GENTLY!

WE'RE TAKING THEM WHERE WE TOOK THE *OTHERS!* TO THE *CAMP OF THE DAMNED!*

IT IS *NOT* THE FIRST OF ITS KIND SEEN ON EARTH! BUT *DESAAD* IS THE MASTER OF *THIS* ONE!

EVEN AS JUSTIFIERS MAKE A *MOCKERY* OF LIFE--*DESAAD* PLAYS WITH *DEATH* AS IF IT WERE A *FINE ART!*

I WONDER WHAT SORT OF *MASTERPIECES* HE'LL MAKE OF *THESE* BRATS!

I TRUST THIS *CAMP* OF YOURS IS SERVING THE PURPOSE THAT OVERRIDES ALL OTHERS, *DESAAD!*

IF THE MIND YOU *SEEK* TO CONTACT IS AMONG THOSE AT MY CAMP, IT SHALL SOON *GIVE UP* ITS SECRET, GREAT *DARKSEID!*

BUT SURELY YOU *CAN'T* MEAN--

20

SURELY NOT EVEN THE GREAT *DARKSEID* BELIEVES IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!*

WHY, IF ONE COULD *MASTER* SUCH AN EQUATION--HE COULD *CONTROL* THE MINDS OF *ALL* LIVING THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE--WITH A *MERE* WORD!

I-I *BELIEVE* IN *ANTI-LIFE*, GREAT *DARKSEID*--BUT IT CAN ONLY BE INDUCED IN OTHERS BY THE MEANS OF *INVENTIVE SELLING!*

I LIKE YOU, *GLORIOUS GODFREY!* YOU'RE A SHALLOW, PRECIOUS CHILD--THE *REVELATIONIST*--HAPPY WITH THE SWEEPING SOUND OF *WORDS!*

BUT *I AM THE REVELATION!* THE *TIGER-FORCE* AT THE CORE OF ALL THINGS! WHEN YOU CRY OUT IN YOUR DREAMS--IT IS *DARKSEID* THAT YOU SEE!

21

THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION EXISTS! LOCKED IN THE MIND OF SOMEONE HERE ON EARTH!--AND ONLY I DARE REACH FOR IT!

I SHALL CREATE CHAOS HERE! SHAKE UP THE PLANET!-- SHAKE UP THAT MIND!

I HAVE MANY SERVITORS TO HELP ME DO THAT! EACH WITH HIS OWN METHODS, EH, DESAAD?

YOU FAVOR HIM ALWAYS, GREAT DARKSEID! THINK OF WHAT MY JUSTIFIERS DO IN YOUR CAUSE!

I BEG TO DEPART FROM THIS PETTY SITUATION, SIRE!

YOU'RE A LOUD, PETULANT BUMPKIN, GODFREY! LIKE ALL REVELATIONISTS, YOU'VE GOT IMAGINATION-- BUT NOT FINESSE!

BUT I, GOOD GODFREY, HAVE BOTH! I LEAVE NOW FOR MY "CAMP," WHICH DARKSEID KNOWS IS TERROR, REFINED TO PERFECTION!

DESAAD IS SOON ON HIS WAY--ABOARD THE SAME AERO-VAN THAT CARRIES HIS CAPTIVES-- THE YOUNG FOREVER PEOPLE!

BUT THEIR DESTINATION IS THE MOST BIZARRE AND TERRIFYING STRUCTURE EVER SEEN BY THE EYES OF MAN!

IT IS DESAAD'S OWN LITTLE DOMAIN ON EARTH--A PILOT PROJECT OF PURGATORY--WHERE TORMENT IS COMPUTED--DEATH IS CONTROLLED-- AND ESCAPE IMPOSSIBLE! DON'T MISS--

Kingdom OF THE DAMNED!

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

KIRBY'S FOURTH WORLD of the THE FOREVER PEOPLE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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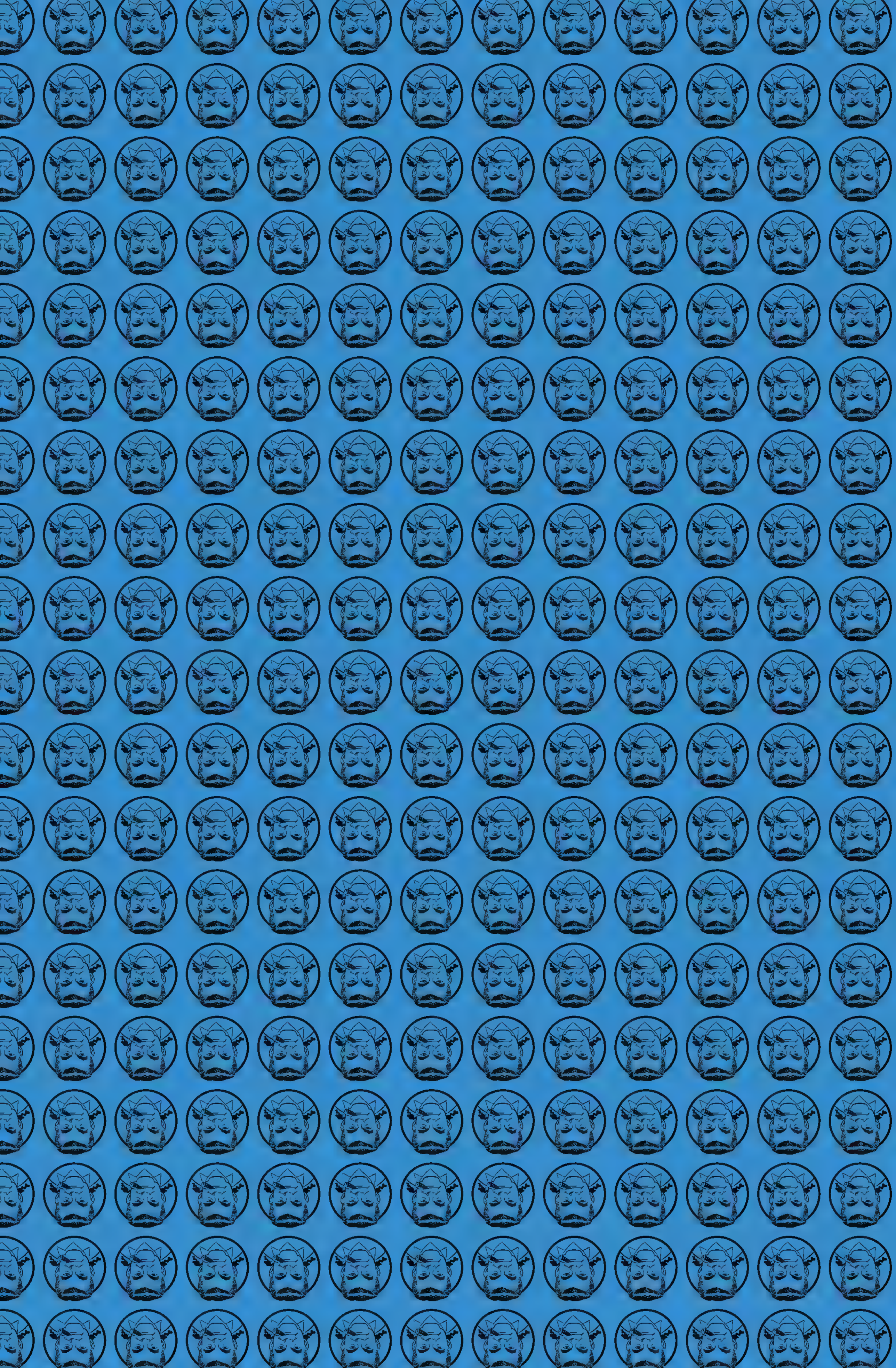
bigger & better

MEET DESAAD! HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS--AND LOVES IT!!

ALIENATION TURNS A HAPPY PLACE INTO HELL!

READ "KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED!"



THE KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED IS NOT A FAR PLACE! IT'S NOT A HIDDEN PLACE! IT'S IN FULL VIEW OF US ALL! BUT, IT HAS BEEN RIGGED BY A MALIGNANT FORCE SO THAT ITS TORMENTED INMATES ARE SEEN AND HEARD--AND IGNORED!!

ISN'T THERE ANY HOPE? WHY WON'T THEY RESCUE US?

I DON'T KNOW! THEY MUST SEE US THROUGH THAT GLASS WINDOW!

THEY CAN HEAR US, TOO! THERE'S A SPEAKER SYSTEM UP THERE! WHY DON'T THEY RESPOND!

HELP! HELP! WE'RE PRISONERS!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM? WHY CAN'T THEY SEE OUR DESPERATE SITUATION?

YOU, OUT THERE! HELP! HELP! HELP!

AND WHO AMONG US WOULD RUSH TO *AID* THE VICTIMS OF THIS CRUELTY--WHEN THE SIGHTS WE SEE AND THE SOUNDS WE HEAR ARE BRIGHT AND JOYOUS? FOR ARE WE NOT IN "*HAPPYLAND*"--CONCEIVED IN A WORLD CALLED *APOKOLIPS*--AND BUILT ON EARTH BY THE SUBTLE, THE CLEVER--THE *EVIL*--*DESAAD*?

HA HA HAHAHA HAHAHA

CASTLE OF WONDERS

HAPPYLAN

BUT WHAT CAN DESAAD BE PLANNING THAT BRINGS THE GREAT *DARKSEID* TO THIS PLACE? THE CRAFT BEARING HIM APPROACHES NOW!

THE MASTER "*SCRAMBLER*" IS WORKING SMOOTHLY! THE FOOLS TRAPPED IN THAT IMAGE LITTLE REALIZE THAT *WE* ARE *DISTORTING* THEIR CRIES INTO *LAUGHTER!*

LIKE US, THESE HUMANS ARE SERVING THE NEEDS OF *DESAAD!* BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT HE FINDS THEM MORE ENTER-TAINING!

2

3

AT THAT MOMENT, ONE OF THE STRANGE HOVERCRAFT THAT SERVICE "HAPPYLAND" ARRIVES WITH A CARGO OF HIGHEST PRIORITY!

HEADS UP, JUNIOR! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE AIRCRAFT!

I CAN SEE THE AIR-JETS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF IT, DAD! SEE 'EM?

IN A PART OF "HAPPYLAND" RESERVED FOR THE INVISIBLE "MANAGEMENT", THE HOVERCRAFT DESCENDS!!

NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC

ALL CLEAR FOR LANDING! THE REALM OF DESAAD HAILS OUR LEADER!

MESSAGE ACKNOWLEDGED! STAND BY FOR THE COMING OF DARKSEID!

OUR MASTER, DESAAD, AWAITS YOU, GREAT DARKSEID! HE PREPARES A MOST INTERESTING FEAT IN YOUR HONOR!

IF THIS INVOLVES MERE CRUELTY, I MAY NOT BE AMUSED! HOWEVER, YOU MAY LEAD ME TO DESAAD!

THIS WAY, SIRE!

4

WHAT DARKSEID IS ABOUT TO SEE COULD **NOT** HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CAPTURE OF THE **VALIANT** FEW WHO DARED AND FAILED IN THEIR ATTACK ON A STRONGHOLD OF THE FORCES OF **APOKOLIPS!** NOW, IMPRISONED IN THE **UNSEEN** WARRENS OF "HAPPYLAND", OUR YOUNG CAPTIVES FROM **SUPERTOWN** AWAIT THEIR FATE AT THE HANDS OF **DESAAD**--WHO HAS HIS OWN **SPECIAL** PLANS FOR THE

FOREVER PEOPLE!

VYKIN, THE BLACK!--CAN YOU ASSESS OUR SITUATION?

IT WOULD BE AN **EASIER** TASK, **MOONRIDER**--IF WE HADN'T **LOST MOTHER BOX!**

I'M **CERTAIN** THAT SHE'S IN THE HANDS OF THE **ENEMY!**

THE QUESTION IS--WHICH OF THE ENEMY IS OUR CAPTOR?

DON'T MISS THE ACTION!--IN THE STRANGEST, CRUELEST PRISON EVER BUILT!!

WRITTEN, DRAWN AND EDITED BY:
Jack Kirby
INKED BY--VINCE COLLETTA

5

OUR ENEMY SERVES *DARKSEID!* WE CAN AGREE ON THAT!

OUR ENEMY HAS CONFINED US IN A CELL WITH A COMPLEX ATOMIC STRUCTURE!

IT *DEFIES* MY STRENGTH!

IF THE WALL WON'T YIELD TO *BIG BEAR*-- WE *ARE* IN TROUBLE!

NOW, WE WERE BROUGHT HERE BY *UNKNOWN* MEANS AND IN AN *UNCONSCIOUS* STATE! ALL THIS WAS THE RESULT OF OUR INVADING THE *GIANT TENT OF GLORIOUS GODFREY,* WHO PREACHES *"ANTI-LIFE!"*

HIS HOST OF *"JUSTIFIERS"* WERE THERE-- ARMED AND *HOSTILE!!*

AND SO, TO MATCH THEIR MIGHT, WE USED *MOTHER BOX* TO EVOKE THE *INFINITY MAN!*

THE *INFINITY MAN* *FAILED* US! BECAUSE ONLY *ONE* COULD STAND AGAINST HIS POWER-- *DARKSEID* HIMSELF! *DARKSEID* *WAS THERE!*

NOW *INFINITY MAN* IS *GONE!* AND *DARKSEID* HAS US AND *MOTHER BOX!*

MY HELMET INDICATOR REGISTERS A *STRONG* IMPULSE FROM MOTHER BOX! SHE IS SOMEWHERE *CLOSE* BY!

6

STAND FAST, YOU ANIMALS! DESAAD RULES HERE! I TRUST THAT YOU KNOW OF MY MASTER!

DESAAD! WE'RE IN THE HANDS OF DESAAD! DARKSEID HAS GIVEN US TO THAT DEMON!

HE WORSHIPS TORMENT!-- REFINES IT TO AN ART!

I SEE THAT MY MASTER'S FAME HAS SPREAD TO YOUR WORLD, NEW GENESIS!-- OR DO YOU WHELPS CALL IT SUPERTOWN, NOW?

I MUST PICK THE RIGHT CAPSULE FROM MY HAT! THE ONE WITH STUN POWER!

NONE OF YOUR TRICKS!

ZZZZSSHH

SERIFAN! YOU'VE HURT SERIFAN!

MY NERVE BEAM IS USED WHEN A LESSON MUST BE TAUGHT!

WHA--?

WE KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU! ALL OF YOUR CLEVER DEFENSES!

WHY WASTE ANYMORE TIME ON THEM?

YES! *VERTIGO GRENADES* WILL *QUICKLY* BRING THEM INTO LINE!

IN ANOTHER SECOND, THEY'LL LOSE ALL SENSE OF BALANCE!

THE GRENADES CREATE A STRANGE LIGHT AS THEY FALL--AND EMIT AN EVEN STRANGER SOUND!

SFIK

M-MY HEAD! IT SEEMS TO BE *REELING!*

EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS BEGINNING TO *SPIN--!*

THE SPINNING BECOMES A *WHIRLING MADNESS--A VORTEX OF MOTION...* WHERE ONE IS TOSSED LIKE A LEAF IN A HIGH WIND!

STOP IT! STOP THE ROOM FROM *TURNING!*

8

WHEN THE EFFECT SLOWS DOWN, THE VICTIMS' SENSES ARE STILL IN THE GRIP OF VIOLENT INERTIA!

HA! THEY CAN'T TELL *WHICH* DIRECTION "*UP*" OR "*DOWN*" IS!

THEY'RE *EASIER* TO HANDLE NOW! DESAAD LIKES *EFFICIENCY*!

CAN'T--RISE-- TO--MY-- FEET--! CAN'T GAIN MY-- BALANCE!

DISPATCH UNIT, SEND US TRANSPORT! THESE *NEW* PLAY TOYS ARE READY TO BE CARTED OFF FOR OUR MASTER'S *PLEASURE!!*

FINE! DESAAD IS IN A *FRENZY* FOR SPORT! HE IS OCCUPIED EVEN AT THIS *MOMENT*!

DO YOU *HEAR* THAT, NEW GENESIS DOGS? DESAAD WILL *SOON* ATTEND TO YOU! AND YOU WOULD QUAIL IF YOU KNEW *WHAT* KEEPS HIM BUSY RIGHT NOW!

AND, IN A PRIVATE CHAMBER--

THE *MURDER OF A MOTHER BOX!* I *DIDN'T* THINK YOU WERE *FOOLISH* ENOUGH TO ATTEMPT IT, DESAAD!

THIS SHOULD PROVE *AMUSING* INDEED!

BEAR WITH ME, GREAT DARKSEID! MY TECHNICIANS HAVE LABORED FEVERISHLY TO FASHION THE PROTECTIVE HOOD AND KILLING GLOVES FOR MY EXECUTIONER!

NOW, THE *MOTHER BOX IS COMPLETELY* AT MY MERCY--LIKE ITS COMPANIONS-- THE *FOREVER PEOPLE!*

PING PING PING PING PING PING

THE THING REACTS, MASTER!--AS IF IT REGISTERS *FEAR!* IT DOES HAVE A CERTAIN CLAIM TO--*LIFE!*

10

LISTEN TO IT, MASTER! EVEN AS THE ELECTRO-SPIKES BEGIN TO PIERCE IT--IT *SCREAMS!*

EEE

AA AARRRRE!!

SUDDENLY...

OSSH

ZZ

AAAAA!

THE *MOTHER BOX* HAS *VANISHED!* THEY *ALWAYS* DO THAT!

NO! IT *DISINTEGRATED!* THAT'S IT! I'VE MADE IT COMMIT SUICIDE! *HAHAHAHAHA!*

YOU CROW TOO *SOON* AND TOO *LOUDLY, DESAAD!* DOES THE *MOTHER BOX* VANISH--OR DISINTEGRATE? YOU DON'T *REALLY* KNOW! NOR DO **I**!

A *MOTHER BOX* IS LINKED TO THE *INFINITE!* AND MADE TO *PLAGUE* US!

FORGIVE ME, GREAT DARKSEID! IN MY ZEAL TO *PLEASE* YOU, I MAY HAVE CHOSEN THE *WRONG* SUBJECT!

BUT I DO HOLD THE *FOREVER PEOPLE!* PERHAPS YOU MIGHT JOIN IN WATCHING THEM *THRASH* ABOUT IN MY NET!

NO, DESAAD! I'M *LEAVING!* WHEN ONE CAMPAIGNS FOR CONTROL OF ALL LIVING CREATURES, HE *DOESN'T* STOP TO TOY WITH A *FEW!*

YOUR CRAFT AWAITS, SIRE!

SAVE ME FROM CEREMONIAL DEPARTURES! I SHALL GO *LEISURELY! OUTSIDE!*-- AMONG THE HAPPY THRONGS AT "*HAPPYLAND!*"

LIKE ALL *GREAT* LEADERS, SIRE, YOU HAVE THE "*COMMON TOUCH!*" ARE THEY NOT YOUR FUTURE SLAVES?

AMONG THEM IS HIDDEN THE MIND WHICH CAN *SOLVE THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!* WITH THE ANSWER TO THAT--

I SHALL *CONTROL* EVERY LIVING CREATURE IN THIS UNIVERSE WITH A MERE *WORD!*

12

A MOMENT LATER, DARKSEID WALKS BOLDLY OUT AMONG THE HUMANS OF EARTH.

WHERE *IS* THAT MIND I SEEK? *WHY* DOESN'T IT SURFACE--WHERE THE MECHANISMS AT MY COMMAND CAN *LOCATE* IT!

LOOK, TOMMY! THERE'S A REAL, LIVE *SPACEMAN* FROM THE GALAXY EXHIBIT!

DARKSEID IS PATIENT! HE WIELDS THE POWER OF *APOKOLIPS!* ITS VAST RESOURCES HAVE BUILT "HAPPYLAND"!- TO INDULGE *VAIN* DESAAD! PERHAPS EVEN *HIS* CRUEL PRACTICES AMONG THE HUMANS-- WILL *SHAKE OUT* THE MIND I SEEK!

GRANDPA! THAT MAN IS *SCARY!* MAKE HIM GO *AWAY!*

HUSH, CHILD! IT'S *NOT* POLITE TO EMBARRASS STRANGERS!

I'M *AFRAID*, GRANDPA!

WHY THIS GENTLEMAN IS PROBABLY IN THE CAST OF SOME *SHOW*, HERE! AREN'T YOU, SIR?

NO, GRANDPA! I'M THE *REAL* THING!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES, FRIEND! CAN'T YOU SEE THIS CHILD IS *FRIGHTENED?*

OF COURSE, *FRIEND!* ALL YOUNG HUMANS *RECOGNIZE* THE REAL THING WHEN THEY SEE IT!

YOUNG HUMANS SEE ME-- EVEN IN "*HAPPYLAND!*" BUT YOU ELDERS HIDE ME WITH *"COCK AND BULL"* STORIES TO KEEP THE PREMISES SMELLING *SWEET!*

FOOL!

AND STILL, THE COSMIC JOKE *ESCAPES* HIM!! FOR HOW CAN HE COPE WITH ME-- BY SHUNNING ME-- *HIS OTHER FACE.*

DARKSEID'S MASSIVE FEATURES CRACK WIDE WITH THE LAUGHTER OF *APOKOLIPS!* BUT THE SOUND OF IT IS DROWNED BY THE *MELODIOUS* MUSIC OF *"HAPPYLAND!"*

AND THAT IS THE INSIDIOUS CHARM OF "HAPPYLAND"! FOR MOONRIDER, IT'S NOW AN UNBREAKABLE, TRANSPARENT CAGE!

HELP! YOU OUT THERE! HELP ME!

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH YOU? I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME THROUGH THIS OPENING! WHY DO YOU JUST SIT AND *STARE?*

14

WHAT MOONRIDER DOESN'T REALIZE IS THAT HIS IMAGE AND SPEECH HAVE CHANGED IN HAPPYLAND! HERE, HE IS MERELY A SOURCE OF CURIOSITY AND AMUSEMENT!

CROOOOO

TUNNEL OF MYSTERY

OH! THE DRAGON IS MUCH MORE FRIGHTENING THAN THAT *ANIMATED* SKELETON!

WHILE IN THE WINGS, BEHIND THIS VAST ENTERPRISE, THE MACHINES OF DESAAD HUM AND CLATTER-- ENDLESSLY ENGAGED WITH HIS VICTIMS!

THERE! LOOK AT MOONRIDER'S FACE! HE'S BEGINNING TO *BREAK!* LOSING HOPE--*HA HA HA*--

THE MASTER *SCRAMBLER* IS FRUSTRATING HIS EVERY ATTEMPT TO BE UNDER-STOOD, SIRE!

WELL, HE'S NOT READY YET TO PROVIDE ME WITH A PROPER SHOW! HE NEEDS TIME TO SIMMER--TO FEEL HIS EMOTIONS TIGHTENING INTO A HARD, SQUIRMING BALL!

IT WILL BE THE MOMENT BEFORE HE *LOSES* ALL REASON!

WHAT OF THE ONE THEY CALL *BIG BEAR?*

I HAVE HIM ON THE MONITOR, SIRE! HE IS IN THE *RESONANCE ROOM!*

AH! I SEE HIS FACE REFLECTS HIS *PREDICA-MENT!*

15

BIG BEAR IS ALSO IN A CAGE! IT IS A ROOM WITH A CIRCULAR WINDOW! AND FROM IT HE STARES IN DISBELIEF!

STOP THAT, YOU FOOLS! LISTEN TO ME!

CALL THE POLICE!

BUT HIS PLEAS ARE ANSWERED BY THE SOUND OF LIGHT RIFLE POPS!!

ZOP POP POP

AAAAA! ANOTHER VIBRO-WAVE!

BRAANNGANNGANG

THE WALLS OF THE ROOM PICK UP THE SOUND! MAGNIFY IT TO A POWER THAT SENDS AN OVERWHELMING STORM OF VIBRATION THROUGH BIG BEAR!

IT HAPPENS WITH A DREADFUL, REPETITIVE CONTINUITY! AND EACH TIME, WEAKENED, BIG BEAR MARSHALS HIS REMAINING STRENGTH FOR ANOTHER TRY AT GAINING RESCUE!!

CAN'T GIVE UP! GOT TO KEEP TRYING!

GOT TO MAKE THEM-- UNDERSTAND!

16

BUT, SOMEWHERE IN HAPPYLAND, DESAAD'S **SCRAMBLING MACHINE** IS BUSILY AT WORK! CHANGING BIG BEAR'S IMAGE AND VOICE INTO AN INTRIGUING MOCKERY!!

WIN LOADS OF GREAT PRIZES!

SHOOT THE ROBOT BEAR!

HEY! THERE HE IS AGAIN! I'M TAKING *FIRST* CRACK AT HIM!

NO, YOU DON'T! *LADIES FIRST!*

THAT BEAR SURE MAKES A *FUNNY* GROWL!

THIS IS A *TERRIFIC* SHOOTING GALLERY!

THEN--ANOTHER VOLLEY! ANOTHER CRASHING, BODY-BRUISING *SHOCK WAVE!!*

BANG

IT IS ONLY DESAAD AND HIS EVIL SERVITORS WHO SEE HAPPYLAND IN ITS TRUE DIMENSIONS!

HAHAHA! THE BEAR IS A *HARDY* ONE-- IS HE NOT, SIRE?

UNTIL HE'S REDUCED TO A SPIRIT-LESS *WRECK*, HE'S *NOT* WORTH WATCHING!

FOREVER PEOPLE ARE RATHER *DIFFICULT* TO DEAL WITH! BUT I SHALL WEAR THEM DOWN!! NOW FOR THE *GIRL!*

GUARD! GET AN IMMOBILIZER GUN AND COME WITH ME!!

AT ONCE, GREAT DESAAD!

AHHHH--MY VISION OF *BEAUTY!*--AND A BEAUTY OF *VISIONS*, TOO, I MIGHT ADD! A MIND SO SENSITIVE THAT IT CAN MAKE ILLUSION SEEM LIKE REALITY!

WHAT MY SCRAMBLING MACHINE MUST HUFF AND PUFF TO PRODUCE--BEAUTIFUL DREAMER CAN DO BY MERE THOUGHT!

NOW, *USE* YOUR IMMOBILIZER, GUARD! *THAT'S IT!* THE BEAM WE ADMINISTERED EARLIER MAY BE *WEARING OFF!*

ZZZZZZZZ

I HAVE RAISED THE BEAM TO HIGH INTENSITY, SIRE! SHE WILL NOW BE UNABLE TO MOVE FOR HOURS!

18

AND NOW, MY DEAR! AS YOUR AUTOMATED COUCH MOVES INTO THE NEXT ROOM, WE SHALL *PLAY* WITH ILLUSIONS, EH?

THE COUCH STOPS! THE WALL RISES! AND WHAT HAVE WE? WHY, IT'S A GLASS WINDOW! BUT WHAT LURKS BEYOND IT, EH?

MONSTERS! YES, *MONSTERS! GROTESQUE! TERRIFYING! REAL!* SEE THEM! HEAR THEM! HOW *EAGER* THEY ARE FOR THAT WINDOW TO *OPEN!*

RRRROWRRR

HISSSSSS

BEYOND THE WINDOW, THE IMAGE IS DIFFERENT! THE SCRAMBLER IS AT WORK--DOING THE BIDDING OF DESAAD!

I'LL *READ* HER THE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR THAT *THOUSAND DOLLARS!*

WIN $1000.00 DOLLARS

WHISPER THE MAGIC WORD THAT AWAKENS THE SLEEPING ROBOT PRINCESS!

WAIT IN LINE WHEN WINDOW IS RA

LINE UP, FOLKS! THAT WINDOW WILL OPEN SOON! LET'S ALL GET A CHANCE AT THE *MONEY!*

19

YES, NOW THE WINDOW WILL *OPEN*--AND THE MONSTERS WILL SWARM IN--TO WHISPER SWEET NOTHINGS IN HER EAR!

HO, MASTER! THE YOUNGEST OF THE CAPTIVES WILL *NOT* COOPERATE!

HE'S THE ONE THEY CALL *SERIFAN!* WE PUT HIM IN THE CHAIR PREPARED FOR HIM!--BUT HE *STRUGGLES* AGAINST US-- AND WE HAVE YOUR ORDERS *NOT* TO DISCIPLINE HIM!

WHAT? TOUCH THAT *ANGELIC* BOY? WE MUSTN'T DO THAT!

COME! HE WILL *OBEY DESAAD!*

SEE, MASTER! WE *DID* GET HIM TO PUT HIS FOOT ON THE BOARD PEDAL--BUT HE DOES NOT SEE ITS SIGNIFI-CANCE!

WELL, THEN! IT'S TIME WE ACTIVATED THE *MONITOR SCREEN!*

IT WILL BE LIKE WATCHING A WESTERN *MOVIE*, BOY! YOU *LOVE* EARTH WESTERN MOVIES, DON'T YOU? WELL, IN THIS ONE, *YOU* SHALL PLAY THE NOBLE *HERO!*

W-WHAT DO YOU *MEAN--?*

20

THERE! ON THE SCREEN! YOUR GOOD FRIEND, VYKIN, THE BLACK SITS TRAPPED IN THE PATH OF THAT ONRUSHING ROLLER COASTER! IT'S REALLY HAPPENING!

ROLLER COASTER

QUICK! NOW KICK THE FOOT PEDAL--OR HE DIES!

VYKIN!

KLAK

WOMMM

GOOD WORK, BOY! THAT KICK SENT HIS TRAP-CHAIR PLUNGING DOWN! OUT OF DEATH'S PATH! YOU SAVED HIS LIFE!

BUT, LOOK! HIS CHAIR IS RISING ONCE MORE! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

AND AGAIN-- AND AGAIN--AND AGAIN! BUT NEVER FEAR! YOU'LL BE HERE, IN THIS CHAIR, BOY--KICKING THE PEDAL TO SAVE HIS LIFE!

JUST DON'T GET TIRED! IT COULD BE FATAL TO YOUR FRIEND!

21

MEANWHILE, IN A PLACE OUTSIDE OF "HAPPY-LAND", THE ONCE IMPRISONED MOTHER BOX MATERIALIZES OUT OF THIN AIR!!

PING PING PING PING PING

AND THERE, IN THAT PLACE, IT RESTS! WAITING--WAITING FOR THE APPROACH OF GREAT, FRIENDLY HANDS! AND THEY COME!

WHAT IS *THIS* I HAVE FALLEN *HEIR* TO?

PING

PING

PING

I-I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING IT IN THIS ROOM BEFORE!

STRANGE--HOW IT FILLS ME WITH THOUGHTS OF *AWARENESS*--*LIFE!*

PING PING PING

OKAY! IT'S TIME TO STOP YOUR *MEDI-TATING* AND--HEY! WHAT'S *THAT?*

I DON'T KNOW! BUT INSIDE IT, THE ANCIENT WINDS OF *TROUBLE* BLOW--CALLING OUT MY NAME--FOR *HELP!*

22

YOU WON'T FORGET HIS NAME, FRIENDS! HE IS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT TO THE **FOREVER PEOPLE!**

MEET **SONNY SUMO,** *THE* **BANZAI EXPRESS!**

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

TO OPPOSE THE POWER OF EVIL GODS- MOTHER BOX FINDS THE MOST INCREDIBLE MAN ON EARTH!! SONNY SUMO!!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

bigger & better

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 5
NOV.
30 490

FOR THE FIRST TIME!!! SEE THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION IN ACTION!

EXTRA! THE SANDMAN MEETS THE EVIL CARNIVAL GANG!

SONNY SUMO

IS THE MYSTIC TYPE OF A VANISHING BREED--THE ***NOBLE WARRIOR!*** IN MEDIEVAL JAPAN, HE'D HAVE BEEN AN HONORED ***SAMURAI!*** IN ANCIENT ROME, A GLADIATORIAL ***SPARTACUS!*** AT THE MERCY OF TODAY'S WORLD, WHEN NOBILITY IS A ***TWISTED*** CREDO AND THE WARRIOR IS A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE, SONNY SUMO STRUGGLES TO HOLD ***FAST*** TO AN ***ENIGMA*** WHICH SEEMS TO MAKE HIS LIFE ***MEANINGFUL!!***

I TELL YOU, I'M OKAY, HARRY! I'VE TURNED OFF ALL THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT STRANGE ***BOX*** I FOUND IN MY LOCKER ROOM! I'M READY TO FIGHT ***SAGUTAI!***

YOU'D ***BETTER*** BE! I'VE GOT THAT BIG HUNK OF STEEL ALL ***PRIMED*** TO DO YOU IN! GET THAT?

THERE'S ***BIG*** MONEY RIDING ON THIS! ***AL FISHER,*** THE PROMOTER, IS ***WAITING*** OUTSIDE!

HEY! THE NATIVES ARE GETTING ***RESTLESS*** OUT THERE! LET'S GET THE SHOW ON THE ROAD!

WAITING FOR SONNY SUMO, AS IT HAS FOR ALL HIS PREDECESSORS, IS THE *ARENA!* BUT, THIS IS TO BE A *NEW* WRINKLE IN THE ART OF PERSONAL COMBAT! SONNY SUMO'S STRENGTH AND SKILL *TRANSCEND* THE COMMON SPORTS! HE MUST FACE AN ADVERSARY *NO* MODERN GLADIATOR HAS BEEN BRED OR TRAINED TO CONQUER!!

HARRY SHARP, YOU MUST BE TURNING HONEST! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU AND YOUR WRESTLER TO SHOW AFTER WATCHING ALL THIS *TONNAGE* BEING PROGRAMMED FOR MAYHEM!

IT'S A GOOD GIMMICK! BUT IS THERE A *SHOW* IN IT??

MISTER FISHER THINKS YOU *CAN'T* LAST, SONNY! *SHOW HIM!*

IF THAT BULL-DOZING BARBIE-DOLL SHOWS *ANY* SIGN OF GOING WILD, USE THAT *CUT-OFF* GUN! ITS BEAM WILL *KILL* THE ACTIVATION CIRCUITS!

YOU'RE *LATE,* SONNY SUMO! BUT DEATH IS PATIENT!-- AND *SAGUTAI IS DEATH!*

LEG SHACKLE *RELEASED!* THE ROBOT IS *FREE!*

SPOK

2

3

THAT ROBOT *TALKS*, HARRY! YOU MUST'VE PUT A *BUNDLE* INTO BUILDING HIM!

I *DIDN'T* BUILD HIM, MISTER FISHER--BUT SONNY AND SAGUTAI *ARE* A LARGE INVESTMENT! IF *YOU* LIKE THEM--THE ACT WILL PAY OFF--BUT *BIG!*

HOW DOES HE DO IT, HARRY!!? IT *ISN'T* POSSIBLE FOR *ANY* HUMAN TO HOLD BACK THAT THING!

SONNY CAN! RIGHT NOW, HE'S USING THAT *STEEL POLE* TO KEEP SAGUTAI OFF BALANCE!

UGH-H--

SUDDENLY, *WITHOUT* WARNING, SAGUTAI'S MIGHTY HANDS TWIST THE STEEL BAR SO QUICKLY, THAT IT *ALMOST* ENTRAPS SONNY'S HEAD!

HARRY! WAS THAT FOR *REAL*? *SUMO* COULD HAVE BEEN--

I *DIDN'T* SAY THIS WASN'T DANGEROUS, MISTER FISHER! ONE SLIP COULD MEAN THE *END* FOR SONNY!!

PONK

GOOD ATTACK, SAGUTAI! BUT I WAS JUST TOO FAST!

4

BUT DANGER AND DEATH ARE ONLY PART OF THE DEVELOPING STORY OF *SONNY SUMO!* HIS POWERS HAVE SCARCELY BEEN TESTED!!--FOR WHEN THEIR FULL RANGE IS FINALLY REALIZED, THEY WILL ROCK THE "*KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED!*" AND SHAKE THE ARROGANCE OF EVIL GODS!! AND BRING HOPE TO *MOONRIDER*, *BIG BEAR*, *VYKIN THE BLACK*, *SERIFAN* AND *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER*!!--

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

OUR HONORED GUESTS, GREAT *DESAAD!* EACH REGISTERED ON THE *PSYCHO-FUGE!*

AND EACH REGISTERING HIS INDIVIDUAL REACTION TO THE LITTLE *ARRANGEMENTS* I'VE MADE FOR THEM, HERE AT *HAPPYLAND!*

WRITTEN, DRAWN AND EDITED BY--WHO ELSE?

JACK KIRBY

AND INKED BY--WHO ELSE--?

VINCE COLLETTA

5

THE KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED IS A SUBTLE CONCEPT! HAPPYLAND, THE AMUSEMENT PARK, ON THE OUTSIDE--AND BEHIND THE FACADE--

YOUR *RELUCTANT* GUESTS, SIRE!! YOUR *PRIVATE* AMUSEMENTS!

AS YOU ORDERED--I *REVOLVE* THE PSYCHO-FUGE!

FINE! MY SENSITIVE "*FEAR SIPHON*" IS HONED AND READY TO "*RECEIVE!*"

YES! THEY'RE *FILTERING* THROUGH! THE HEIGHTENED EMOTIONS FORCED OUT BY *JOLTING* STRESS!

TO RIDE THOSE WAVES IS AN *EXHILARATING* EXPERIENCE!

NOW, AS THE IMAGES OF MY PRISONERS *MERGE*, SO DO THE WAVES OF RAW EMOTION!! THE INTENSITY *MOUNTS!*

6

SUDDENLY, IN THE WHIRLING PIN-WHEEL OF *FRENZIED* FEAR-WAVES, THE IMAGES OF DESAAD'S *OTHER* CAPTIVES BLEND IN TO FORM A HORRIBLE, GROTESQUE MASS OF UNRECOGNIZABLE *STRESS VISUALS!!*

WHAT CAN EQUAL THIS FOR JOY? I FIND IT *STRANGE* THAT DARKSEID WOULD SHUN THIS!

IT'S A *SHORT* DISTANCE FROM DESAAD'S PLAYROOM OF HORROR TO THE ARENA OF COMBAT, WHERE *SONNY SUMO* PLAYS ANOTHER GAME-- FOR DESTINY IS AT WORK TO QUICKLY *CLOSE* THE GAP BETWEEN THEM!

IT'S MORE OF A CIRCUS ACT THAN A SPORT, MISTER FISHER! THE PUBLIC WILL *JAM* THE PLACE TO WATCH SONNY PLAY WITH *DANGER!*

WHO ARE YOU KIDDING, SHARP? YOU MEAN-- *SUDDEN DEATH!*

AT THAT *MOMENT--*

POW

SWORD BLADES! IN THAT THING'S FINGERS!

SSNIKK

THE *UNCANNY* ROBOT SWIVELS WITH LIGHTNING MOTION AND *STUNS* SONNY WITH A *SAVAGE* KARATE CHOP!

ONLY HIS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH AND STAMINA SAVE SONNY FROM THE DESCENDING BLADES!! HE ROLLS OUT OF DANGER!!

ZOWTCH

AAAAAAA

BUT *NOT* QUICK ENOUGH TO *FULLY* AVOID THE TERRIBLE FLAME-THROWING FINGERS OF SAGUTAI'S *OTHER* HAND!

ARE YOU *NUTTY*, SHARP? DO YOU THINK I'D BACK *THIS* KIND OF STUNT? WHY, IT'S *MURDER!!* THE POOR GUY IS *DONE FOR!*

IT'S ROUGH! BUT IT'S *NOT* OVER! THERE'S AN *ANGLE* TO THIS ACT THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO *SEE* TO BELIEVE!

IT'S A KIND OF ORIENTAL THING--LIKE INVOKING A *MYSTIC* POWER IN THE MIND! SONNY'S GOING THROUGH THE *RITUAL* NOW! HE CALLS IT "*WOUND REJECTION*"!

DIE, SUMO! DIE!

FOR A FLEETING SECOND, SONNY'S SCORCHED FACE BECOMES A RIGID MASK OF CONCENTRATION!

INSIDE HIM, ANCIENT CENTURIES AND EVEN MORE ANCIENT PRACTICES COME ALIVE! EXPAND! TAKE HOLD!--AND DO THEIR WORK!!

THEN, QUICKLY, THE HEAD RISES! THE FACE IS *STRONG! CLEAN! UNMARKED* BY PAIN OR WOUND!

THEN, WITH AN ALMOST *DESPERATE* URGENCY, SONNY *ATTACKS* HIS MAMMOTH OPPONENT!

YOU'VE FOUGHT LIKE THE THING YOU *ARE*, SAGUTAI!

BUT I MUST *END* THE BATTLE!

KRA

SH

9

FANTASTIC! HE NOT ONLY GOT RID OF HIS WOUNDS--BUT HE BEAT THE ROBOT!

DE-ACTIVATE SAGUTAI! YOU OKAY, SONNY?

HERE, KID! DRY OFF!

THANKS! I CAN'T STAY AROUND FOR COMMENTS! COME WITH ME TO THE LOCKER ROOM!

SEC A

ALL ROBOT CIRCUITS ARE NOW DORMANT!

WHEN SONNY AND HIS TRAINER REACH THE LOCKER ROOM...

DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S UP! I KNOW! SAGUTAI GOT 'CHA REAL GOOD, DIDN'T HE!!

SURE! THAT MUST BE IT! YOUR "MIND-GIMMICK" CAN'T HOLD IT FOR LONG! THE WOUNDS ARE COMING BACK!!

DON'T STAND THERE, RAPPING! GET A DOCTOR-- HURRY!!

SAGUTAI WAS GOOD TONIGHT! THIS WON'T--BE-- EASY-- TO-- HEAL--

YOU WON'T BATTLE AN ORDINARY PRO!! OH, NO! YOU'RE A SAMURAI! YOU GOTTA HAVE BIG ODDS AGAINST YOU--

LEFT ALONE, SONNY SINKS WEAKLY TO HIS KNEES! HE ENDURES WHAT WOULD MAKE OTHERS CRY OUT!! SMALL WONDER HE IGNORES THE STIRRING IN THE STRANGE BOX IN HIS ROOM!

PING PING PING PING PING PING

10

MOTHER BOX *REACHES* OUT TO THE SENSITIVE MIND--*LINKS* WITH IT! WORKS WITH *ATOMS!* *RESTRUCTURES--REMOLDS!--*

THEN IT'S OVER! MOTHER HAS RESTORED! PRESERVED! AND ESTABLISHED *RAPPORT* WITH SONNY SUMO!!

Y-YOU'VE *HEALED* MY WOUNDS--!

I-I CAN LISTEN TO YOU AND *UNDERSTAND!*

YOU'RE *MOTHER BOX!!*

PING PING PING

YOU SOUGHT ME OUT!--ZEROED IN ON MY MIND!

--AND, NOW, YOU *NEED* MY SERVICES!--A MISSION *WORTHY* OF A SAMURAI!!

PING-PING-PING-PING--

HOW CAN I REFUSE YOU, MOTHER BOX!? *LEAD ON!!*

PING-PING--PING-PING-PING--

MOTHER BOX AND SONNY SUMO GROW TRANSPARENT AND FADE--UNTIL THEY *VANISH* FROM THE ROOM!!

THEN, THEY *INSTANTLY* RE-APPEAR!--IN AN ATMOSPHERE ALMOST LUDICROUS TO SONNY!

I'M IN A *TUNNEL*--THE KIND BUILT TO SCARE PEOPLE--IN AN AMUSEMENT PARK!!

I DON'T LIKE THIS RIDE, HONEY! IT'S SO MORBID!

ALL THOSE *HORRID* FACES POPPING OUT AT US! *UGH!*

THAT SKELETON'S FUNNY! HE'S JUMPING ABOUT, LIKE HE'S TRYING TO *BREAK* OUT OF HIS CASE!

BUT THE SKELETON *CAN'T!* BECAUSE HIS PRISON IS MADE OF *MORE* THAN *EARTHLY* GLASS!! BECAUSE AN INVISIBLE SCRAMBLER HAS DISTORTED HIS *TRUE* IMAGE! BECAUSE HE'S A *CAPTIVE* OF DESAAD!

UNTIL THE *HAND* APPEARS--WITH THE POWER TO BREAK THE GLASS--THE SCRAMBLED IMAGE--AND RELEASE *MARK MOONRIDER!*

12

THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF THE *"SHOOTING GALLERY"*--WHERE THE MAIN ATTRACTION IS A *"BIG BEAR"*--AN APT NAME FOR THE *TARGET!*

HE'S BACK AT THE WINDOW AGAIN! *LET 'IM HAVE IT, GANG!*

ALL TOGETHER, NOW!

SHOOT THE ROBOT BEAR

FIRE!

IN THE *"SOUND ROOM"* *BEHIND* THE WALL, HIDDEN INSTRUMENTS *"PICK UP"* THE IMPACT OF THE FUSILLADE OF SHOTS AND *MAGNIFY* IT TO THE JARRING, BODY-SMASHING EFFECT OF A SMALL ATOM BOMB!

BWOOONG

ANOTHER *SCRAMBLED IMAGE* HAS PERFORMED FOR DESAAD! BUT THE ACT IS SOON MERCIFULLY *CONCLUDED!*

MOTHER BOX SAYS WE'RE NEEDED *HERE!*

BIG BEAR'S IN HERE! HOW CAN WE GET TO HIM, STRANGER?

THE *QUICKEST*, EASIEST, WAY!

RRROAATTA

HE TORE THAT THICK WALL FROM ITS FOUNDATIONS--WITH *ONE* HAND--A MOST *INCREDIBLE* HUMAN!

13

THEN, THE RESCUERS ARE *INSIDE*--TO FIND BIG BEAR ALMOST *SHATTERED* BY THE UNBEARABLE HAMMERING!

BIG BEAR! BIG BEAR! IT'S ME-- *MARK!!*

YOU MOVED!! YOU'RE *STILL ALIVE*, YOU BIG, BLESSED BEAR!

H-HOW-DID-YOU-GET IN--?--IF *I* COULDN'T--BREAK--OUT--??

QUESTION PILES ON QUESTION! WHAT PUZZLES BIG BEAR SOON CONFOUNDS DESAAD HIMSELF!!

SOMETHING'S *WRONG!!* MY "*FEAR-SIPHON!*"--IT *ISN'T* FUNCTIONING!

IMPOSSIBLE, SIRE! TO NEGLECT ITS CARE WOULD MEAN TO *RISK YOUR ANGER!*

MASTER! MASTER! THE "*PSYCHO-FUGE*" HAS COME TO A *HALT!* ITS SCREENS HAVE GONE *BLANK!!*

WHAT KIND OF *MADNESS* IS THIS? *CHECK IT! RE-CHECK IT!* YOU FUMBLING DOLTS!

MMMMMM

WHAT'S THAT SOUND? I HEAR A HUMMING SOUND!

SUDDENLY...

WHOM

IN THE REALM OF DESAAD'S KIND, WHERE *FORCES* OF *INFINITE* VARIATION ARE HARNESSED FOR MANY PURPOSES--THE MEANING OF *THIS* ONE IS *EVIDENT!*

GUARDS! GUARDS! THERE'S AN ENEMY AMONG US!

AN ENEMY WITH A DAMNABLE *MOTHER BOX!*

ACTIVATE *ALL* SENSORS! TRACK DOWN THE INTRUDERS! ALERT! *ALERT!*

THE *ENTIRE* STAFF IS ON THE MOVE, MASTER!

AND IT'LL *STAY* ON THE MOVE UNTIL THE ENEMY IS HUNTED DOWN AND *DESTROYED!*

MOTHER BOX *ELUDED* MY EXECUTIONER IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER!! NOW, SHE SHALL BE HER *OWN!*

IF I DESTROY THE YOUNG *FOREVER PEOPLE*-- MOTHER BOX WILL *DESTRUCT!*

WHILE DESAAD *SMOLDERS* BECAUSE OF HIS WRECKED PSYCHO-FUGE, HIS ELECTRONIC SCRAMBLER *STILL* FUNCTIONS--WHERE BEAUTIFUL DREAMER LIES LOOKING OUT AT *MONSTERS!!*

15

OUTSIDE, THE "MONSTERS" VIEW OF HER IS *EQUALLY* SCRAMBLED!! THEY FORM AN ENDLESS FILE MEANT TO HONOR HER IN A CONTINUAL *PARADE OF HORROR!!*

THE DOOR IS *OPEN!* FILE IN--WHISPER YOUR WORD--AND *PASS ON!*

I HOPE I SAY THE *RIGHT* WORD! I CAN *USE* THE PRIZE MONEY!

WAKE THE SLEEPING PRINCESS! SAY THE MAGIC WORD WIN $1000.00

HOLD IT, FOLKS! THIS EXHIBIT *ISN'T* QUITE READY TO OPEN! TRY AGAIN TOMORROW! *SORRY!*

WHA-?

HOW ABOUT *THAT!* I'M GOING TO *COMPLAIN* TO THE MANAGEMENT!

WHEN THE CROWD DEPARTS...

EASY, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!! I KNOW I LOOK LIKE A *MONSTER* TO YOU! BUT, HOLD ON!

PING PING PING PING

THERE! YOU'RE SMILING! MOTHER BOX HAS *NEUTRALIZED* DESAAD'S VISUAL SCRAMBLER!

ONLY A *PSYCHOTIC* LIKE DESAAD WOULD SUBJECT YOU TO THE STRESS OF FACING *ENDLESS* FRIGHT AND HORROR!

16

AT THAT MOMENT, THE *EVIL* CORE OF HAPPYLAND *EXPLODES* WITH ARMED KILLERS ON THE HUNT!!--AND THEY'RE ALREADY WITHIN *EARSHOT* OF THEIR QUARRY!!

THIS WAY! LISTEN TO THE SIGNALS IN YOUR HELMETS! OUR SENSORS ARE *GUIDING* YOU!

THE SIGNALS ARE GETTING *LOUDER!* WE'RE *CLOSING IN!*

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

BEEP

WE'VE GOT *COMPANY,* FRIENDS! AND THEY SOUND LIKE THEY'RE WEARING *COMBAT BOOTS!*

DESAAD'S OWN CORPS OF FAITHFULS! THEY'LL DO *ANYTHING* BUT ANGER DESAAD!

AND ANYTHING AT *THIS* POINT ADDS UP TO *KILLING US!*

MOTHER BOX HAS BEEN *BUSY,* HASN'T SHE? I'LL BET SHE'S SENT *"KILL BEAMS"* TO BREAK UP DESAAD'S *TINKER TOYS!*

I DON'T KNOW, BUSHY-BEARD! BUT MOTHER BOX HAS BEEN *VIBRATING* SINCE WE GOT HERE!

WELL, MY HELMET RECEIVERS HEAR HER! SHE'S DIRECTING US TO VYKIN THE BLACK AND SERIFAN!-- A *DOOR*-- STRAIGHT AHEAD!

YEA AND VERILY! *PARDON* OUR ANXIOUS BEHAVIOR, SIR! BUT WE FEEL RATHER INSECURE IN HAPPY-LAND!

SERIFAN! WHAT DEVIL'S TRICK HAS DESAAD *FORCED* ON YOU!?

BAM

A *SIMPLE* ONE, MARK! I'VE *GOT* TO KEEP KICKING HOME THIS PEDAL WITH MY FOOT!

17

SAY NO MORE! THIS MONITOR SCREEN TELLS ME *EVERYTHING!* EACH TIME YOU KICK THAT LEVER, YOU TRIP A *RELEASE* THAT PULLS POOR VYKIN FROM THE PATH OF THAT ROLLER COASTER!!

YES, BUT I'VE BEEN AT IT FOR *HOURS!* DESAAD KNOWS THAT THE MOMENT I TIRE-- VYKIN WILL *DIE* ON THE FOLLOWING RUN!

KLAK

SOMEWHERE, OUTSIDE, VYKIN THE BLACK, BOUND IN A *TRAP-SEAT,* IS YANKED DOWN, BEFORE THE TRAIN OF CARS RUSHES PAST WHERE HIS HEAD WAS *EXPOSED...*

VROOOM

WUMP

THEN, ALMOST MAGICALLY, THE MAGNET'C CABLES HOLDING VYKIN BEGIN TO UNWIND!

I-I'M FREE! FREE!

MOTHER BOX IS AT WORK! MY MIND IS SO ATTUNED TO HER WAVES--I CAN HEAR HER *WITHOUT* MY HELMET!

VYKIN IS ON HIS WAY! HE CAN *HEAR* YOU! IN UNION WITH *YOUR* MIND, MOTHER BOX CAN CREATE WAVES OF *TITANIC* POWER!

WE'RE *GUIDING* HIM TO US! THIS MAKES *MY* MIND RITUAL SEEM LIKE CHILD'S PLAY!

PING PING PING PING PING

18

SOON AFTER, VYKIN BURSTS INTO THE ROOM-- WITH DESAAD'S HORDE AT HIS HEELS!!

FREEZE! WE *DIDN'T* KILL YOUR FRIEND! WE'D RATHER DESTROY YOU AS A *COMPLETE* UNIT!

THAT'S THE LOT OF THEM! *READY* FOR KILLING!

I'M SORRY, FRIENDS! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE BEHIND ME UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT!

THIS WAY, VYKIN! WE MUST BE TOGETHER-- AT *ANY* COST!

VERY TOUCHING, YOU *NEW GENESIS BRAT!* BUT DESAAD WOULDN'T APPRECIATE IT! *FIRE AT MY COMMAND!*

READY TO FIRE -- FOR *APOKOLIPS!*

READY TO FIRE FOR *GREAT DARKSEID!*

FOR *DESAAD!* WHOM WE SERVE WITH FIDELITY!

SUDDENLY, THE ROOM'S LIGHT *DIMS*-- AND, LIKE DISTANT ROLLING THUNDER, THE SOUND OF *RISING* FORCE FILLS THE STIFLING AIR!

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!!

SLEEP!

19

IN *EERIE*, TERRIBLE UNISON, THE KILLERS RESPOND WITH FRIGHTENING SWIFTNESS!! AS IF THAT ONE, LAST WORD HAD *TAKEN* THEIR WILL--AND *PULLED THEM DOWN!!*

THE *OUTSIDE CONTROL* OF THE MIND!

AND WE'VE JUST SEEN IT *HAPPEN!* *HE HAS THE POWER!*

YES! MOTHER BOX SOUGHT OUT AND *FOUND* THE MAN WITH THE POWER!! THIS MAN KNOWS THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!* THIS MAN CAN CONTROL *ALL* LIVING BEINGS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! WHAT'S *ANTI-LIFE!?*

WHY, THE VERY *OPPOSITE* OF LIVING! IF SOMEONE POSSESSES *ABSOLUTE* CONTROL OVER YOU--YOU'RE NOT REALLY ALIVE!

WITHOUT INDEPENDENT WILL--YOU MAY JUST AS WELL BE A *ROBOT!*

YES, YOU *KNOW* THE EQUATION! BUT IT'S *HIDDEN*--DEEP WITHIN YOUR MIND! MOTHER BOX *HELPED* BRING IT TO THE SURFACE!

BUT IF MOTHER BOX *DOESN'T* FEAR YOU--NEITHER DO *WE!!* COME TO THINK OF IT--YOU'RE IN *TROUBLE!* IF DESAAD HAS BEEN MONITORING THIS--*YOU* NOW RATE *TOP* PRIORITY ON HIS *CAPTURE* LIST!!

YOU SEE, THERE'S A *WAR* ON, FRIEND!--YOU DON'T KNOW IT--BUT YOU'RE ON *OUR* SIDE!! WE SHOULD GET TO *KNOW* EACH OTHER!!

I KNOW HOW TO START! WHAT'S YOUR *NAME,* PARDNER?

21

I'M SONNY SUMO! AND, I'VE HANDLED POWER ALL MY LIFE!! BUT THIS--KINDA SCARES ME!

AW, WHERE WE COME FROM THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION IS ONE OF MANY OTHERS-- ALMOST AS AWESOME!! BUT THEY MERELY EXIST!!

DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S WE WHO LIVE!! WHY NOT JUST LIVE, SONNY? YOUR WAY!!

THAT'S OUR ONLY OBJECTIVE! TO STOP THE FORCES THAT WON'T LET US DO JUST THAT!

OKAY! I'LL BUY THAT! WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE?

TO FREE THE OTHERS HELD CAPTIVE HERE-- AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT HAPPYLAND AMUSES ONLY PAYING CUSTOMERS!!

BUT THE ENEMY IS ALSO INVOLVED!! BY TELE-SCREEN!!

GREAT DARKSEID! YOU SAW!-- YOU HEARD!

YOU KNOW, DESAAD, I MUST ADMIT THEY HAVE A POINT! WE MUST BE WHAT WE ARE! AND OF COURSE--THAT'S THE PITY OF IT!

IT'S THE VERY CORE OF OUR CONFLICT! TO FULFILL OURSELVES-- WE MUST KILL THEM! KILL THEM! KILL THEM! KILL THEM! AND TAKE SUMO! I WANT THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT WILL ASTOUND YOU! BY GEORGE, IT ASTOUNDED EVEN ME! AND I, JACK KIRBY, AM MUCH CLOSER TO THIS SAGA THAN YOU ARE, READER! THERE'S BEEN NOTHING IN COMICS THAT'S EQUALLED ITS LIKE!! I'VE SEEN IT--AND I'M STILL SHAKING! NOW YOU SEE IT! HERE IT COMES!--IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!

The OMEGA EFFECT!

THE YOUNG GODS OF SUPERTOWN

INTRODUCING

LONAR

IN ALL OF NEW GENESIS, ***HE*** ALONE SHUNS THE SATELLITE CITY AND ***WANDERS*** CONTINUOUSLY AMONG THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE MOTHER WORLD!!--AMONG THE THINGS HE'S SEEN AND ***NEVER*** TALKED ABOUT!!

Written and Drawn by: JACK KIRBY
Inked by: Colletta

THERE'S NO RECORD ANYWHERE OF LONAR'S LATEST DISCOVERY!!--THE GLAZED PIT AND THE SHATTERED REMNANT OF A ONCE PROUD CITY!!--THE UNBELIEVABLE SURVIVAL OF A SMALL PLACE OF THE ELDER GODS!!

EVIDENCE OF A VIOLENT CULTURE BASE LIES EVERYWHERE!! LONAR EXAMINES ARTIFACTS LONG SHORN OF THEIR MIGHT AND MAGIC!!!

BORN AND BRED TO VIOLENCE! --*THUS*, THEY DIED!!!

MOTHER BOX *ACTIVATES!!* BUT THERE'S *NOTHING* HERE TO REACT TO!!! YET--

PING! PING! PING! PING!

THIS MOUND OF ENCRUSTED ASH!!--IT SEEMS FORMED AROUND SOME *CENTRAL* OBJECT!!--

PING! PING! PING PING

PING
PING
PING

THIS BEARS *CLOSER* EXAMINATION! CAN IT BE POSSIBLE THAT SOME SORT OF SHOCK COULD HAVE INDUCED A *NATURAL* CASE OF *SUSPENDED ANIMATION!!*

THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT! *SOMETHING* HAS SURVIVED THAT ANCIENT HOLOCAUST!!

PING
PING PING
PING PING
PING

PERHAPS *SMALL* SHOCK BLASTS GENERATED BY MOTHER BOX WILL REVEAL *MORE!!*

BOMP!
BOMP!

ZZZSSSHH

BUT THE SHOCKS SEEM TO SPARK *GREATER* ERUPTIONS IN THE DEAD CITY!

AND IN THE RUMBLE OF *CONTINUING* REACTION, THE UNEARTHED SURVIVOR *JOLTS* INTO LIFE!!

3

IT'S A *BATTLE HORSE!* I'VE SEEN STATUES OF THEM!!

LONAR HAS ACTED *INSTINCTIVELY!* HE'S LEAPED ASTRIDE THE ANIMAL'S BROAD BACK AND RIDES WITH THE BEAST !!

MEANWHILE *ANCIENT* FIRES HAVE BEEN REKINDLED!—AND WHAT'S LEFT OF THE CITY *DIES* ONCE AGAIN !!!

THE PIT BLAZES AS IT DID IN THAT *LAST* FIERY MOMENT OF THE ELDER GODS!!! BUT ITS TWO LIVING OCCUPANTS HAVE *ESCAPED!!!*

FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL, THE WORLD OF NEW GENESIS RESOUNDS TO *POWERFUL* HOOFBEATS--THAT ONCE MINGLED WITH THE *TERRIBLE* SOUNDS OF BATTLE!! AT ANY RATE, LONAR HAS A LIVING ARTIFACT--AND A WONDROUS *WAR HORSE !!!*

SEE IT--TO BELIEVE IT!

The OMEGA EFFECT!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

48 pages

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 6

JAN.

30490

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

IT WIPES YOU OUT OF EXISTENCE!

EXTRA! The SANDMAN and SANDY MEET "The VILLAIN from VALHALLA"

IN THE SECLUDED AREA WHERE THE WORLD OF APOKOLIPS HAS ESTABLISHED GLORIOUS GODFREY TO PREACH THE DESTRUCTIVE CREED OF ANTI-LIFE, A PATROL OF HIS "JUSTIFIERS" MAKE A "SECURITY SWEEP!!!"

IT'S THE VEHICLE LEFT BEHIND BY THOSE NEW GENESIS BRATS WE CAPTURED!

DESTROY IT! WHERE THEY ARE--THEY WON'T NEED IT ANYMORE!!

BUT OBJECTS NOT MADE ON EARTH DON'T FUNCTION AS THEY DO ON EARTH! THERE ARE SURPRISES IN STORE FOR THOSE WHO TAMPER WITH THEM!!! IN FACT, IN THIS ERA WHEN THE NEW GODS HAVE COME TO DECIDE THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE--THEY'VE BROUGHT THEIR STRANGE POWERS WITH THEM!!! AND BEFORE THIS SEGMENT IS OVER, YOU'LL HAVE WITNESSED THE SHOCKING USE OF

THE OMEGA EFFECT!!

BUT FIRST LET'S SEE WHERE IT ALL BEGINS!!

TURN DOWN THE NOISE OF YOUR "*FLIGHT-SHOES!*" GLORIOUS GODFREY IS *STILL* RECEIVING RECRUITS IN HIS GREAT *TENT!*

HUH! I GET ALL THE *RIDICULOUS* CHORES!!

THIS *APOKOLIPS* WEAPON SHOULD DO A *THOROUGH* WRECKING JOB ON THAT THING!!!

STRANGE! THE DARN THING IS MAKIN' *SOUNDS*-- LIKE IT WAS *ALIVE!!*

KLIK!

SNIK!

WHA-?! IT'S *MOVING!!*-- *CHANGING!!*-THE *HANDLE-BARS*-- THE *CABS*-- THE *WHEELS*--

ZZZZZIKK!

ON NEW GENESIS, THE CREED IS "LIFE!!" PROGRAMMED TO WARD OFF "DEATH," THE "SUPER-CYCLE" DEFENDS ITSELF!!!

ZOF!

2

HAVING PARALYZED ITS ATTACKER, THE SUPER-CYCLE CONTINUES ITS RE-ARRANGEMENT!! FOR ALL PURPOSES IT'S NOW AN IMPREGNABLE FORT!! -- WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF ITS YOUNG "FRIENDS!!"

KLAK!

ZZZZULK!

SSSSSKEEEE!

BUT THE SOUND AND FLASH OF THE PARALYSIS SHOT BRINGS BACK THE OTHERS OF THE PATROL!! THE CYCLE **SWIVELS -- TRACKS -- ZEROES IN —!!**

THAT **SPOOKY** VEHICLE - IT'S TURNED INTO SOME KIND OF **WEAPON!!**

CAREFUL! IT'S ALREADY **SCORED!!**

KLAKAKAK!

THEN --- MORE SHOTS -- MORE STIFFENED, FALLING FIGURES!!! ALL IN FULL VIEW OF GLORIOUS GODFREY DOWN BELOW!!!

ZOF! ZOF! ZOF!

WHAT'S GOING **ON** UP THERE!!!

3

THAT *INFERNAL* "NEW GENESIS" GADGET PARKED ON THAT HILL -- IT JUST *PICKED OFF* OUR SECURITY PATROL!!

WELL, WE *CAN'T* HAVE THAT SORT OF THING GOING ON!! *DESTROY THAT ABOMINATION!!*

WE'LL VOLUNTEER FOR THE JOB, GLORIOUS GODFREY!! GIVE US THE *CHANCE* TO SERVE YOU!!

THESE ARE *NEW* RECRUITS!! CAN THEY *DO* IT??

ZEALOTS WILL DO ANYTHING!! JUST POINT THEM IN THE *PROPER* DIRECTION, GODFREY!

YOU EARTHMEN ARE THE SHINING EMBODIMENT OF *"ANTI-LIFE!"* YOU LEAP AT THE THROAT OF DEATH -- BECAUSE YOU'RE *TRANSFORMED!!*

BELIEF IN ANTI-LIFE MAKES *ALL* JUSTIFIABLE! BELIEF IN *YOU,* GLORIOUS GODFREY, MAKES US -- *"JUSTIFIERS!"*

THEN, *"TO ARMS!!"* GET YOUR WEAPONS AND INSTRUCTIONS!! -- AND *FINISH THAT JOB!!!*

YAHOOO!! WE'LL BLAST THAT THING INTO *TWISTED* JUNK!!!

THEY'RE *REALLY* EAGER TO DESTROY! WHAT'S THE SECRET, GODFREY? THE *HELMET?* THE *UNIFORM?* THE *CREED?*?

EARTHMEN ARE GIVEN ALL THOSE THINGS AT *BIRTH!!* I MERELY *JUSTIFY* THEIR READINESS TO USE THEM!! *THAT'S WHY* THEY LOVE ME!!!

4

BUT ANTI-LIFE CAN BE USED **AGAINST** ITS DISCIPLES!!! THE COMBINED FORCE OF A **MOTHER BOX** AND THE **WONDROUS** MIND OF **SONNY SUMO** HAVE MIRACULOUSLY BROUGHT INTO BEING THE **AWESOME, DREADED** POWER KNOWN AS THE "**ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!!**" --AND ARMED WITH THIS POWER, THEY GO TO THE RESCUE OF---

THE FOREVER PEOPLE!

TO **ALL** PERSONNEL WITHIN RANGE OF MY VOICE!!! ***STAND TO ATTENTION AND LISTEN!!***--

YOU'LL SEE THEM —— ALL!! ——
MARK MOONRIDER
BIG BEAR
VYKIN THE BLACK
SERIFAN
AND
BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

EDITED, WRITTEN, & DRAWN BY J. KIRBY | INKED BY M. ROYER

5

THROW YOUR WEAPONS TO THE GROUND AND RELEASE ALL PRISONERS HELD BY DESAAD!!

WELL, IF DESAAD'S MEN ARE NEAR THEIR COMMUNICATION UNITS -- THEY'LL DO JUST THAT!!

IT'S WORKED HERE! SONNY'S COMMAND HAS MADE INSTANT ZOMBIES OUT OF THIS GROUP!

HORRIBLE!

YES, HORRIBLE!! THEIR BODIES FUNCTION! BUT THEIR INDEPENDENT WILL IS GONE! THEY CAN ONLY SERVE SONNY SUMO!!

TRUE ANTI-LIFE!! RIGHT NOW, AS WIELDER OF THE POWER, SONNY SUMO IS EVEN GREATER THAN DARKSEID HIMSELF!!

AND HERE IN THE HEART OF HAPPYLAND, I VOTE TO LEAVE!

I DON'T BLAME YOU!! ORDER ONE OF THESE ZOMBIES TO GIVE ME HIS WEAPON!!

YOU HEARD HIM!!! DO IT!

I OBEY!!

ALL INSTRUMENTS IN THIS ROOM OPERATE EVERYTHING ***SEEN*** AND ***HIDDEN*** IN HAPPYLAND AMUSEMENT PARK!!!

A FEW WELL PLACED SHOTS WILL START A ***CHAIN*** OF DISRUPTION THAT ***CAN'T*** BE STOPPED!

GO!

WOMP!

--AND SO WE TAKE ***LEAVE*** OF HAPPYLAND!!

--***KINGDOM OF THE DAMNED!!*** WHERE PAIN MASQUERADES AS LAUGHTER--WHERE DESPAIR AND DEATH PERFORM FOR ***DESAAD!!!***

TZOFF!

ZOM!

HAPPYLAND! --WHOSE ***DYING*** REMAINS I LEAVE TO THE POLICE ***MOP-UP*** SQUADS!!

7

AND AS DEATH RUSHES THROUGH A THOUSAND COLLAPSING CIRCUITS -- HAPPYLAND'S FACADE BEGINS TO CRUMBLE!!

BAM

PFOOMPP!!

FREED BY THE SEVERE "SHAKE-UP," THE CAPTIVES EMERGE FROM THEIR STRANGE PRISONS!!"

IT'S OVER! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

AIR! GOOD, CLEAN NIGHT AIR!!!

EXHIBITS, RIDES, AND WONDROUS CASTLES FOUNDER AND TUMBLE AND THROW DEBRIS EVERYWHERE!!! THE HUMAN DEBRIS IS CAUTIOUS, FALTERING, UNBELIEVING, AND FOLLOWS IN ITS WAKE!!!

HEY! WE'RE OUT! --AND NOBODY'S STOPPING US!! I DON'T SEE ANY GUARDS---

KEEP GOING!! DON'T STOP TILL YOU BUMP INTO A POLICEMAN!!

THE POLICE ARRIVE IN DROVES!! IT IS LATE AT NIGHT IN HAPPY-LAND!!--AND THE ABSENT CROWDS MISS ITS MOST SPECTACULAR EVENT!!!--- ITS OWN DEATH!!!

FALL OUT, MEN! FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!!

OFF-HAND I'D SAY THE PLACE IS COMING APART!!

BOOOM

8

WHUM! WHUM!

THIS WAY, MEN! THERE'S ACTION GOING ON IN THERE THAT NEEDS LOOKING INTO!

NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC

I'M GETTING SOME *WILD REPORTS!* THE GUYS ARE PICKING UP PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO'VE BEEN HELD *CAPTIVE* HERE!!

THE REST OF THIS DETAIL, *FOLLOW ME!!* THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON *UNDERGROUND!*

SOME OF IT'S COMING *UP* NOW!! AND IT LOOKS EVEN *WEIRDER* THAN THE REST OF THE RIDES!!!

THEN, THE HIDDEN COMPLEX IS BARED!! INSIDE THE POLICE FIND THOSE WHO'VE HEARD SONNY SUMO'S COMMANDS!! THEY MEEKLY WAIT TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY!!!

LOOK AT THESE *GUNS!* I'VE *NEVER* SEEN ANYTHING LIKE 'EM!!

WHO ARE THESE BIRDS?

TAKE 'EM IN FOR QUESTION-ING!!

*AIR-VAN "SHUTTLES," FLOWN BY GLORIOUS GODFREY'S "JUSTIFIERS," TAKE OFF IN PANIC!!! THE PRISONERS THEY BROUGHT FOR DESAAD WILL **NOW** SET THE LAW ON **THEIR** TRAIL!!*

LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE!

BUT ONE OF THE "JUSTIFIERS" IS **DELAYED** FROM LEAVING THE **SECRET** LANDING STRIP!

HEY! CUT THAT OUT!

I'M TRYING TO GET THIS AERO-VAN **OFF** THE GROUND!!

OH, **PLEASE,** SIR!! I'M SEEKING TRANSPOR-TATION FOR MYSELF AND MY FRIENDS! PLEASE LISTEN!

MAD-DOG **HIPPIE!!** YOU'RE HOLDING BACK THIS TONNAGE WITH YOUR BARE HANDS!! YOU MUST BE **STRONGER** THAN A BULL ELEPHANT!!

MY STARS, SIR!! CAN IT BE THAT **HIGH DENSITY** ATOMS FLOW THROUGH, AND REINFORCE MY **OWN** ATOMIC STRUCTURE?

YOU MOVING **MATTRESS!!** YOU'RE FROM **NEW GENESIS!!**

PA!

OOPS!! WELL, **BIG BEAR** IS MY NAME, SIR! --

--AND **POWER** IS MY GAME!!

THAT'S MY BAG, SIR!! I STORE AN **EXCESS** OF FREE ATOMS AND SEND THEM WHERE THEY'RE **NEEDED!! HERE,** PERHAPS!!!

POW!

10

SUDDENLY--!!!

WAM!

HOW *TRUE* ARE HIGH FATHER'S WORDS! VIOLENCE *BREEDS* VIOLENCE!!

KEEP *QUOTING*, BEARD-FACE!! IT *AIN'T* THE WORST WAY TO DIE!!

THESE ARE *APOKOLIPS* GUNS!! SO YOU'RE "*IT*," BABY!!!

EXPLOSIVE ECHOES ***STILL*** *CRASH ABOUT AS THE FIRING CEASES!!! --AND THE MEN* ***SLUMP*** *TO THE GROUND AT A* ***CURT*** *COMMAND!!*

SLEEP! --YOU DOGS!!

OH! I'M *GLAD* YOU STOPPED THIS, SONNY!! BIG BEAR COULD HAVE *HURT* THESE MEN!!

BUT I THOUGHT I WAS SAVING *HIM!!*

YOU *DON'T* KNOW THE *FULL* RANGE OF BIG BEAR'S POWER!!

WELL! I THOUGHT YOU'D *NEVER* GET HERE!! I'M GETTING INVOLVED IN *ALL* KINDS OF VIOLENCE!!

WE *CAN'T* LEAVE WITHOUT *VYKIN THE BLACK!!* I THINK HE'S GONE AFTER DESAAD!!

I WISH HE *HADN'T!!* DESAAD IS *ALMOST* AS DANGEROUS AS *DARK-SEID!!*

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER'S FEARS ARE OMINOUSLY WELL-FOUNDED!! SOMEWHERE IN THE WARRENS OF HAPPYLAND, BOTH GREAT POWERS OF APOKOLIPS WATCH AND REACT!!!

FASCINATING!! THOSE YOUNG HOTBLOODS OF NEW GENESIS HAVE FOUND A WAY TO OUTWIT US, DESAAD!!

YES--WITH A MOTHER BOX AND THAT MOUNTAIN OF MUSCLE--SONNY SUMO!

SUMO, WITHOUT MIND STIMULATION FROM THE MOTHER BOX, CAN'T USE THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!!

I SHALL, DESAAD!! I SHALL!

BUT IF THEY SHOULD CONFRONT US AT THIS MOMENT--EVEN WE CAN BECOME ITS VICTIMS!!! STOP THEM, SIRE!!!

BUT DON'T THINK I SHALL OVERLOOK YOUR COWARDICE!! THEN, ALL TORMENTORS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR THIS TRAIT!!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, NOBLE DARKSEID!! MY POWERS ARE VAST, BUT--

BUT THEY'RE IN THE REALM OF TECHNOLOGY! SUMO WIELDS THE ULTIMATE MENTAL WEAPON!!!

BOLDNESS, DESAAD!! RISK!! THE RAW MEAT OF EXISTENCE!!! I SHALL STRIKE WITH THESE!! ---AND THE OMEGA EFFECT!!!

12

THE OMEGA EFFECT!!

THE *END!!* THE *TOTAL WIPE-OUT!!!* --Y-YOU WOULD *USE* THAT, SIRE??

THE PUPS HAVE *ANGERED* ME, DESAAD! --PUT *ME* ON THE DEFENSIVE!!! --A *GREAT* FEAT!!

IN WHAT MORE *PROPER* WAY CAN I PAY *RESPECT* TO SUCH DARING!!

IT *BEGINS*, DESAAD! I'VE GENERATED THE *"FINDER BEAMS!"*

13

AT THAT MOMENT, VYKIN THE BLACK RUSHES INTO THE ROOM!!

I'VE FOUND YOU *FIRST*, DARKSEID! YOU'LL DEAL WITH *ME*!!

THEN, SO I *SHALL*!!

YOU'RE TOO *LATE*!! THE BEAMS ARE AT *FULL* POWER!!

AS ALPHA IS THE BEGINNING OF ALL THINGS--THEN OMEGA IS THE END!! FAREWELL, VYKIN!

FFZOW!

HE'S *GONE*, GREAT DARKSEID! THERE'S *NOTHING* LEFT OF HIM--BUT A *SMALL* PATCH OF FADING LIGHT!!

NOW TO SEEK OUT THE *OTHERS* --WITH THE FORCE THAT KNOWS *NO* BARRIERS!!

14

THE OMEGA EFFECT IS SWIFT! RELENTLESS! IT REACHES THROUGH WALLS FOR HUNDREDS OF YARDS AND LOOKS ON TO ITS PREY!!

"FINDER BEAMS," MOONRIDER! --DARKSEID'S ABOUT TO CANCEL US OUT!! BUT, TOTALLY!!

SONNY! USE MOTHER BOX TO PROTECT US! SHE'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

15

BUT THE OMEGA EFFECT IS QUICKER!! SONNY SUMO AND MOTHER BOX-- SUDDENLY VANISH!!!

NO! NO!

GOOD NEW GENESIS!! THEY'VE HAD IT!!!

FZZAP!

GONE!-WITHOUT A TRACE OF THEIR EVER HAVING BEEN HERE!!

WE'VE INFURIATED DARKSEID!!

BIG BEAR! LOOK OUT!!

ZAM!

NO, BIG BEAR!! NOT YOU TOO!!

HE'S BEYOND HELP, MARK!! THAT THING IS AFTER ALL OF US!! LET'S RUN!!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE!! DARKSEID IS PLAYING "CAT AND MOUSE" WITH US!!

WE CAN'T JUST GIVE UP!

LET'S MAKE FOR THE AERO-VAN BIG BEAR CAPTURED!

16

NO CHANCE! SEPARATE!! TAKE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS!!

NO, MARK! I WON'T LEAVE YOU!!

--WHILE I ATTRACT THESE BEAMS!!

WE'LL GO-- TOGETHER!!!

THE LAST TERRIBLE SIGHT IS LIKE A FATAL BLOW TO SERIFAN!! HIS OWN EXISTENCE SEEMS TO VANISH WITH HIS FRIENDS!!

OH! NO! COME BACK! BA---!

THE OMEGA EFFECT IS A MEANINGLESS TERROR TO HIM NOW!! SERIFAN WALKS FEARLESSLY INTO ITS PATH -- TOWARD THE FAST FADING VESTIGE OF ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO HIM!!

I-I--- I'M ALONE--- ALONE!-

SOB--

17

AND, AS A WITNESS TO **ENDLESS** TRAGEDY, DESAAD **ENJOYS** THIS ONE WITH EQUAL GUSTO!!

AND NOW THE **YOUNGEST,** DARKSEID! **NOW HIM!**

NO NEED!! THE THREAT TO US--HAS **PASSED!!**

WHAT!!?? YOU WOULD LEAVE SUCH A DRAMATIC EXPERIENCE **INCOMPLETE?** **NO, SIRE, NO!**

I **REGRET** TO SAY THIS, DESAAD!! BUT I **DON'T** HAVE THE STOMACH FOR **YOUR** KIND OF PURSUITS!!

BUT SERIFAN SHOULD **SHARE** THE FATE OF THE OTHERS!! **AND THEY NO LONGER EXIST!!!--** =UGH!!=

I DO NO MORE THAN WHAT **HAS** TO BE DONE!!

SLAP!

HOWEVER--WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE FATE OF THE OTHERS **ISN'T** TRUE!! THEY **DO** EXIST!! --BUT **NOT HERE!! NOT NOW!!**

YOU SEE--AS **MASTER** OF THE OMEGA EFFECT I CAN **MANIPULATE** IT IN **MANY** INTRIGUING WAYS!!

18

DARKSEID THEN WALKS OUT INTO THE **FIERY** NIGHT--WHERE THE HOLOCAUST OF HAPPY-LAND LIGHTS UP THE SKY!!!

DON'T FRET, DESAAD! WE'LL ATTAIN OUR GOALS **WITHOUT** COMPLETE VICTORIES--OR DEFEATS!!

SEE WHAT A **FINE** SPECTACLE MISFORTUNE PROVIDES FOR US!! HAVE WE **TRULY** LOST, DESAAD--WHEN THE POWER AND RESOURCES OF APOKOLIPS ARE **BARELY** SCRATCHED!!

WHEN GREAT DARKSEID **FINALLY** ATTAINS THE **TRUE** ANTI-LIFE EQUATION-AND COMMANDS **ALL** LIFE WITH A WORD---HE WILL **NOT** FORGET THE TRIALS OF POOR DESAAD!!!

ON **THAT** DAY, OLD FRIEND---A **MILLION** SLAVES SHALL BUILD A **THOUSAND** MORE HAPPYLANDS FOR YOU TO **PLAY** IN!!

BUT WHO FEELS THE **UGLY** STING OF CONFLICT MORE THAN ITS **LIVING** VICTIMS!? IN THE SHAMBLES THAT SURROUNDS HIM, SERIFAN GRIEVES QUIETLY---

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE GONE!! I-I CAN'T-!!

19

PUT YOUR SHOULDERS TO IT, MEN!! WE *HAVEN'T* SCOUTED THIS SECTION!!

EARTH POLICE--

BAM!

BAM!

I'M IN *NO* MOOD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS!! MY ONLY MOVE ---IS TO *MOVE!!*

THIS AERO-VAN'S BEEN DAMAGED IN THAT SHOOT-OUT BIG BEAR WAS INVOLVED IN!!

BUT I THINK I CAN *ACTIVATE* THIS THING BY APPLYING AN *OUTSIDE* FORCE!!

ONE OF MY COSMIC CARTRIDGES CAN DO THE JOB!!! IT WILL *ATUNE* ITSELF TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT *POWERS* THIS VEHICLE!!

IT WILL *INTEGRATE* WITH THE DAMAGED MECHANISM AND *SUBSTITUTE* FOR ITS FUNCTION!!

SUDDENLY!!

OKAY! WHOEVER'S IN HERE--*FREEZE!!*

20

HOLD IT! COME BACK OR---

WE'LL STOP HIM!! WE'VE GOT HELICOPTERS IN THE AREA!!

BUT NO FLYING VEHICLE MADE ON EARTH CAN OVERTAKE AN OBJECT THAT SPEEDS IN THE ELECTRON STREAM!-- STILL UNDISCOVERED--AND NEVER TRAVELED--HERE!!

SERIFAN HEADS TOWARD GLORIOUS GODFREY'S ENCAMPMENT--WHERE, SQUATTING ON A HILL, IS THE ONE FAMILIAR OBVECT TO WHICH HE CAN CLING!!

ZZZZIK

KLIK!

PING!

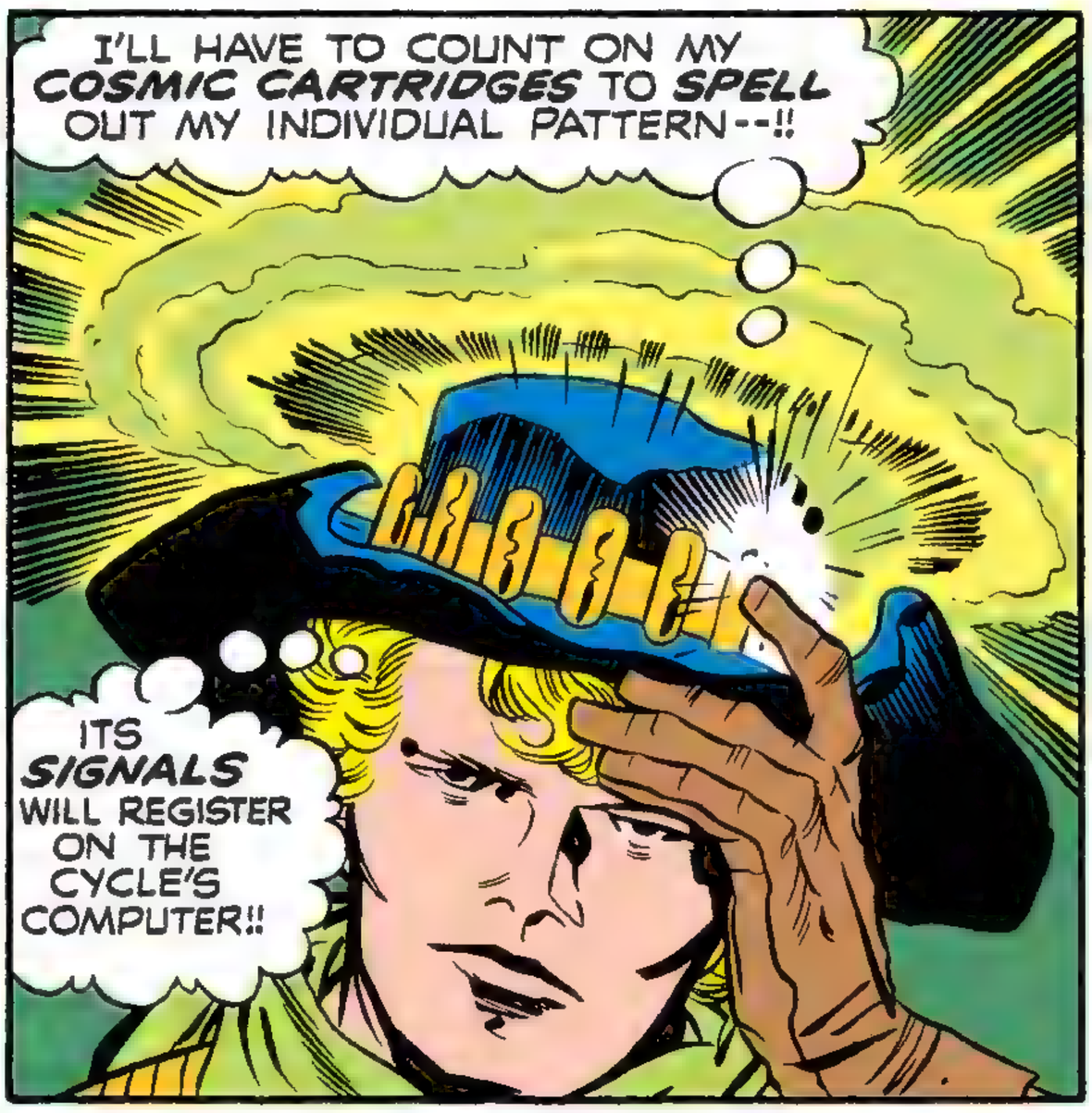
THE SUPER-CYCLE!! IT'S ASSUMED THE DEFENSIVE FORT POSITION! IT'S TRACKING ME!!

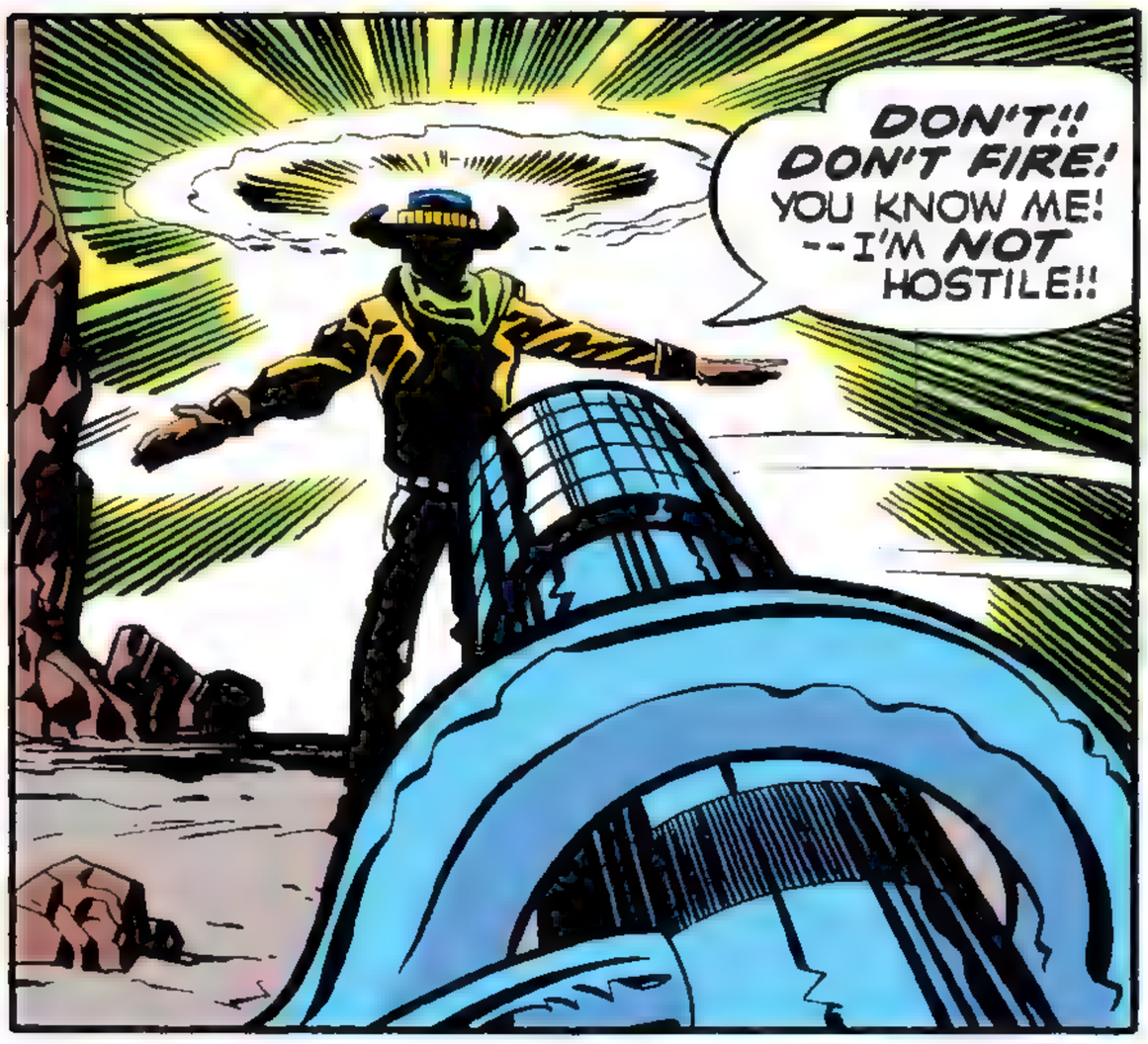
KLEK!

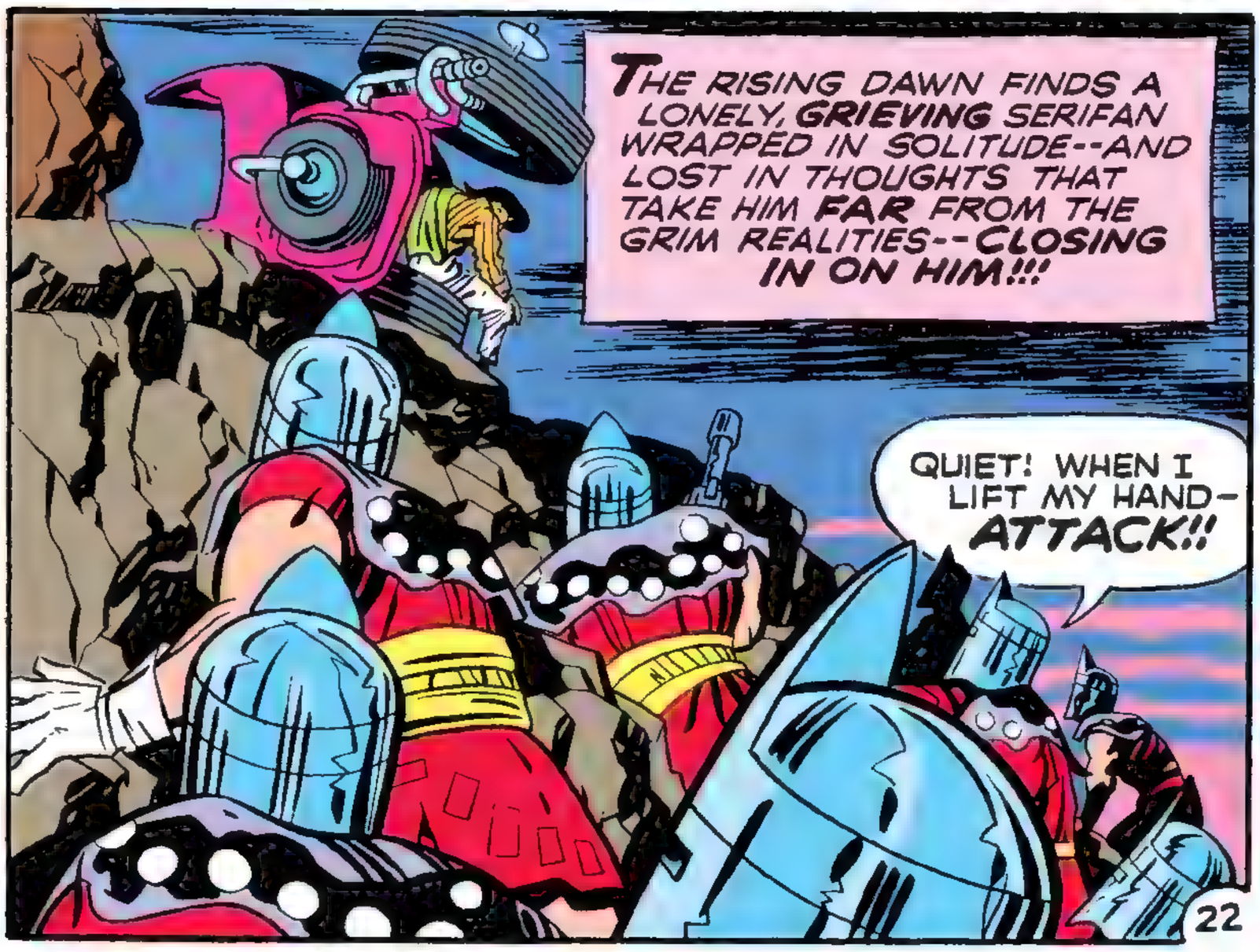
THERE'S BEEN TROUBLE HERE!! --THE JUSTIFIERS MUST HAVE TRIED TO DESTROY IT!!

VOM!

21







STAND BY FOR MORE ACTION, FRIENDS!!!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE ARE ALIVE AND WELL!!! BUT WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHERE!!!

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE--

"I'LL FIND YOU IN YESTERDAY!"

ANOTHER INCIDENT IN THE LIVES OF

THE YOUNG GODS OF SUPERTOWN!

RAID FROM APOKOLIPS

WE'VE ARRIVED ON *NEW GENESIS,* BUT ARE WE *UNNOTICED,* CAPTAIN!?

I SEE ONLY A YOUNG ONE! HE LOOKS HARMLESS ENOUGH!!

EDITED, WRITTEN & DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY**

INKED BY **VINCE COLLETTA**

UNLOAD THE *THERMO-BOLT* MACHINE FROM THE *BOOM-TUBE!!*

AS FOR YOU, YOUNG ONE, YOU'RE NOW A *PRISONER OF APOKOLIPS!!*

WHAT IS THIS!!? *CAN'T* YOU SEE I'M IN THE MIDST OF *MEDITATION?*

THE *COOL* ARROGANCE OF YOU NEW GENESIS WHELPS IS WELL KNOWN!! I'M CAPTAIN OGUR OF *DARKSEID'S OWN RAIDERS!*

YOU'VE *BROKEN* THE INTER-WORLD *PLEDGE* BY COMING *HERE!!*

LET *ME* WORRY ABOUT THAT!! RIGHT NOW, I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR SHINY *ORBITAL CITY*

SUPER TOWN?

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

WE'RE GOING TO BRING IT *CRASHING DOWN!*-- WITH *THIS!!*

Y-YOU MUST BE *MAD* TO BRING THIS *HERE...*

I-IT'S A HORRIBLY UGLY *POLLUTANT!*

YOU'LL *NEVER* BE TROUBLED BY THE THERMO-BOLT MACHINE! *YOUR* NEMESIS IS THIS IMPLOSION GUN!

YOU THERE!! DON'T POINT THAT THING AT *SERIFAN!!* IT LOOKS *DANGEROUS!*

ANOTHER WITNESS!! *DESTROY HIM!!*

YOU'RE DESTROYING MY *EXERCISE!*

ZOM

2

OOOPS!! I'VE DROPPED THE LOG!! YOU'VE MADE ME NERVOUS!!

RUN!! IT'LL FLATTEN US!!

WITH A STRANGE ACCURACY, THE HUGE LOG HURTLES TOWARD THE THERMO-BOLT MACHINE!!

SERIFAN! LOOK OUT!

WHEN THE LOG MAKES CONTACT WITH THAT ACTIVATED MACHINE THIS WHOLE AREA MAY GO UP!!

BWAM

SERIFAN! SERIFAN! OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE!!?

DON'T BE ALARMED, BIG BEAR!! I'M ENCASED IN A SHOCK-REPELLI-FIELD!!

3

I SEE NOTHING--EXCEPT THAT YOU LIVE, SERIFAN!! AND I GIVE THANKS FOR THAT!!

THE SHIELD HAS *DISSOLVED* INTO FREE ATOMS!! IT'S RETURNED TO THE OBJECT IN MY HAND!

A *COSMIC-CARTRIDGE*, YOU BIG HUMBUG!! I HAD TIME TO REMOVE THE *RIGHT* ONE FROM MY HAT BAND!! I'M *NOT* WITHOUT DEFENSE!!

HOW PURE AND PROTECTIVE ARE THE PRODUCTS OF NEW GENESIS!!

AS FOR OUR *FOUL* VIOLATORS OF THE PEACE, THEY *SLEEP* IN SHOCK OF THEIR *OWN* MAKING!!

THERE MAY BE *MORE* RAIDS, BIG BEAR!! I *FEAR* WE MAY SOON SEE A TIME OF *GREAT* TRIAL!!

*OF COURSE, THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE DAYS BEFORE DARKSEID **OPENLY** BROKE THE PEACE AND CHOSE EARTH AS THE BATTLEFIELD!! BUT, EVEN THEN, THE ENERGY FLAME-PITS BURNED **BRIGHTER** ON THE SINISTER WORLD OF **APOKOLIPS**--AS ITS DARK SHADOW BEGAN TO CRAWL ACROSS THE SUN-DAPPLED GREEN OF **NEW GENESIS!***

4

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE LOST IN TIME ??? READ--

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

52 BIG pages DON'T TAKE LESS!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 7

MAR.

30490

SEE THE SUPER CYCLE DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST A SAVAGE HUMAN ATTACK!

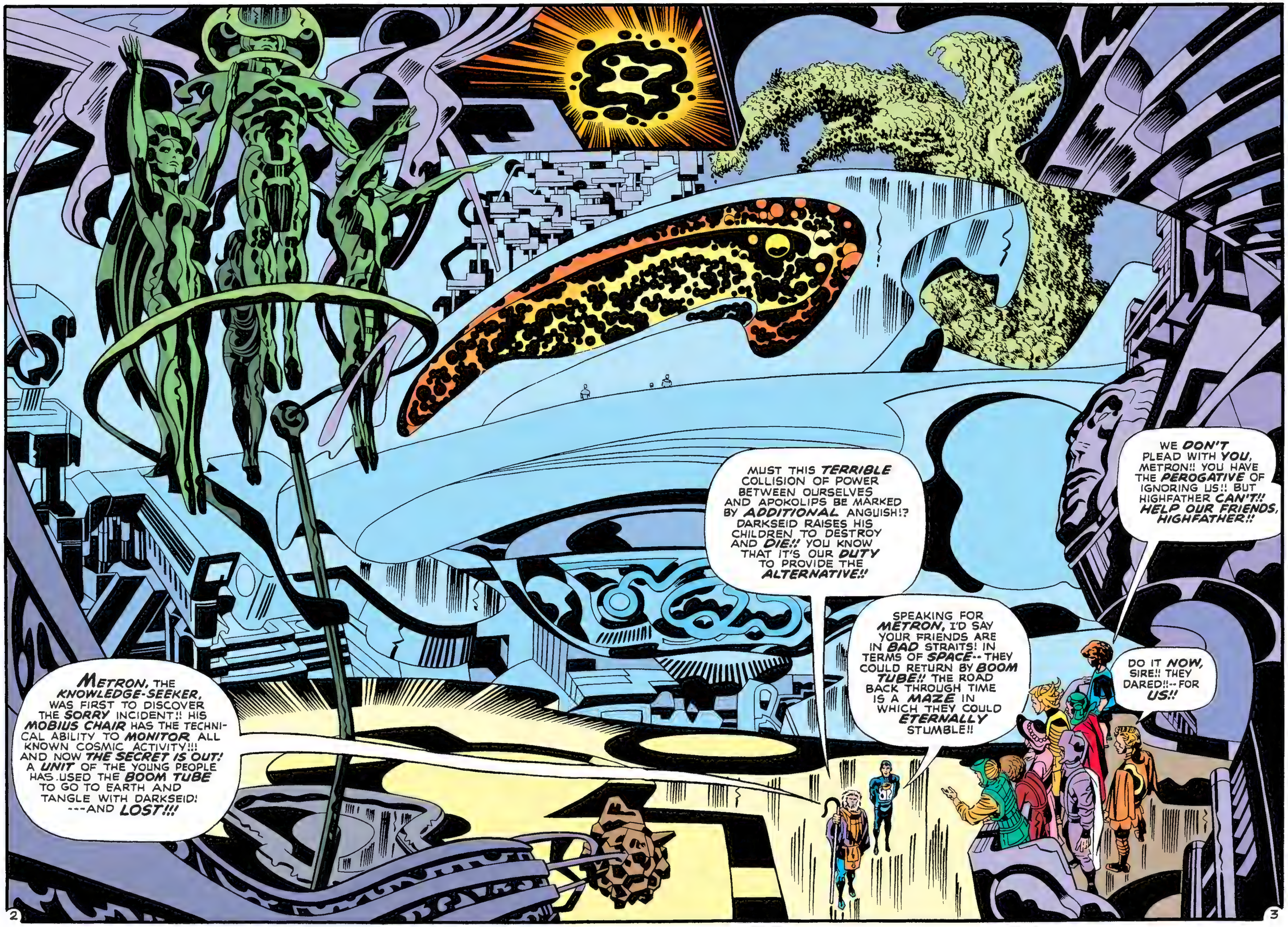
WHERE ARE THE FOREVER PEOPLE??? WHAT HAS DARKSEID, RULER OF APOKOLIPS, DONE WITH THEM? ON THE WORLD OF NEW GENESIS, THE YOUNG HAVE A VOICE! AND THIS IS THE QUESTION THEY ASK!--AND THIS IS THE PROVOCATIVE AND EXCITING THEME OF THIS SEGMENT OF AN EPIC WAR!! ---

"I'LL FIND YOU IN YESTERDAY!!"

THE COUNCIL OF THE YOUNG HAS BROUGHT ME DISTRESSING NEWS!! WHERE OUR GREATEST WARRIORS HAVE TREAD IN CAUTION--- MOONRIDER AND HIS FAMILY UNIT HAVE WILDLY RUSHED!!

SAVE THEM, HIGHFATHER!! THEY BRAVED THE ANGER OF DARKSEID HIMSELF!!

PUNISH THEM!-- BUT DON'T ABANDON THEM!!


METRON, THE KNOWLEDGE-SEEKER, WAS FIRST TO DISCOVER THE SORRY INCIDENT!! HIS MOBIUS CHAIR HAS THE TECHNICAL ABILITY TO MONITOR ALL KNOWN COSMIC ACTIVITY!!! AND NOW THE SECRET IS OUT! A UNIT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAS USED THE BOOM TUBE TO GO TO EARTH AND TANGLE WITH DARKSEID! ---AND LOST!!!
MUST THIS TERRIBLE COLLISION OF POWER BETWEEN OURSELVES AND APOKOLIPS BE MARKED BY ADDITIONAL ANGUISH!? DARKSEID RAISES HIS CHILDREN TO DESTROY AND DIE!! YOU KNOW THAT IT'S OUR DUTY TO PROVIDE THE ALTERNATIVE!!
SPEAKING FOR METRON, I'D SAY YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN BAD STRAITS! IN TERMS OF SPACE-- THEY COULD RETURN BY BOOM TUBE!! THE ROAD BACK THROUGH TIME IS A MAZE IN WHICH THEY COULD ETERNALLY STUMBLE!!
WE DON'T PLEAD WITH YOU, METRON!! YOU HAVE THE PEROGATIVE OF IGNORING US!! BUT HIGHFATHER CAN'T!! HELP OUR FRIENDS, HIGHFATHER!!
DO IT NOW, SIRE!! THEY DARED!!--FOR US!!
2
3

WELL, ESAK!! IS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST OF NEW GENESIS TO ADD HIS VOICE AGAINST MY EDICTS!?

NOT AGAINST YOUR EDICTS, HIGH-FATHER!! BUT ***FOR*** OUR FRIENDS!! IS THIS ***NOT*** A WORLD OF FRIENDS!?

SAVE OUR FRIENDS, HIGHFATHER! ***SAVE THEM!***

THERE'S ***NO*** CAUSE TO WEEP, ESAK!! METRON SAYS THEY'RE ***ALIVE*** AND ***UNHARMED*** !!!

BUT THEY ***ARE*** LOST --AND ***UNHAPPY*** !!

THEY'RE ***DISPERSED,*** HIGHFATHER! --IN ***DIFFERENT*** ERAS OF TIME!! YOU ***MUST*** UNITE THEM AGAIN!!

LOOK AT ME, ESAK! AM I NOT AS ***COLD*** AND ***STERN*** AS DARKSEID?

DARKSEID IS THE ***FIRE-PIT*** OF DESTRUCTION!! HIGHFATHER IS THE ***TRANQUIL*** GREEN OF MORNING!! --THE TIME WHEN THE SONG OF ***LIFE*** BEGINS!!

AND WHAT OF ***POWER,*** ESAK!!? IS THIS ***NOT*** THE NAKED FIST OF ***POWER??***

TRUE! -- BUT POWER TO WHICH THE LIGHTNING DANCES!! -ON THE ***INFINITE*** ROADS OF TIME!! SHOW OUR FRIENDS THE ***RIGHT*** ROAD, SIRE!!

ESAK -- WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES THE VERY YOUNG --- SO VERY ***WISE--?***

TEE HEE!! IT'S OUR ***DEFENSE,*** HIGHFATHER, --AGAINST THE VERY ***OLD!!***

4

AND WHERE ARE THOSE FOOLHARDY FRIENDS OF ESAK!!?? REMEMBER THE DEVASTATING ***OMEGA EFFECT*** WHICH DARKSEID UNLEASHED IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE?? IT WAS THE ***"TOTAL WIPE-OUT!"***--THE POWER TO ***COMPLETELY*** WIPE ANYTHING ***OUT*** OF EXISTENCE!! BUT BY ***WHIMSICAL*** MANIPULATION, DARKSEID CHOSE AN ***ALTERNATIVE!!*** HIS VICTIMS ***STILL*** EXIST!! BUT ***WHERE!!??***

WHERE ARE THE

FOREVER PEOPLE

EDITED, WRITTEN, AND DRAWN BY
JACK KIRBY
INKED BY
MIKE ROYER

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!! WE'RE ***STILL*** ALIVE!! DARKSEID ***SPARED*** US!!

POP!

MARROONED US, IS A MORE LIKELY PHRASE, ***MOONRIDER!!*** LOOK ABOUT YOU!!!

5

WE'RE AMONG *PEOPLE!* --BUT THEY'RE *NOT* THE PEOPLE OF EARTH'S TWENTIETH CENTURY!!

NINETEETH IS MORE LIKE IT! *POST-CIVIL WAR,* I'D SAY!

AN AMERICAN COUSIN A PLAY BY

WE'RE IN SOME KIND OF *THEATRE* ATTENDED BY *GUARDED* NOTABLES!! I THINK IT'S *WISE* WE DO SOMETHING TO *BLEND* WITH THIS AUDIENCE!!

AGREED! I'LL CAST THE PROPER *ILLUSION!*

THE ORCHESTRA'S PLAYING A NUMBER OF EVIDENT NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE!! LET'S *RISE* WITH THE *OTHERS!!*

YOU LOOK *HANDSOME* IN THOSE ANTIQUATED CLOTHES! --EVEN IF THEY *ARE* AN ILLUSION!!

SUDDENLY, ALL EYES ARE *RIVETED* ON THE MAN AND WOMAN ENTERING THE FLAG-DRAPED BOX-SEAT ABOVE THEM!!

THIS IS EVIDENTLY IN HONOR OF *THAT* MAN! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S SOME SORT OF *LEADER?*

BE *STILL,* GIRL! LET ME THINK! *I MUST THINK!-*

6

SURELY AS *HIGHFATHER* IS MARKED BY THE TRIALS OF THE GODS, *THIS* MAN SEEMS SCARRED BY GRAVE TRAGEDY IN HIS TIME!! MOONRIDER, WITH EFFORT, DIGS *MENTALLY* INTO HIS *PAST* EARTH ORIENTATION STUDIES!!

BIG BEAR IS THE "HISTORY BUFF" IN OUR UNIT!! HE'D *KNOW* HIM AT A GLANCE!! I KNOW HIM, *TOO*-- YET--

HE LOOKS WISE--- AND OLD-- -- AND TIRED--

IN MY OPINION, *FORD'S THEATRE* IS PROPERLY BUILT FOR ACOUSTICS, MY DEAR!!

FORD'S THEATRE!! THAT'S WHERE WE ARE! *THOSE* ARE THE WORDS I WANTED! NOW, WITH CASUAL EASE, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER, *LEAVE* YOUR SEAT-- AND COME WITH ME!!

WHY? WHAT'S WRONG?

BUT WE'LL *MISS* THE PLAY, MOONRIDER!! I'D LOVE TO SEE A *FORE-RUNNER* OF EARTH'S EVOLVING THEATRE!

YOU'LL GET TO SEE *MORE* THAN THAT IF WE *DON'T* ACT *SWIFTLY!*

BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON, SIR! WOULD YOU OBLIGE US BY SHOWIN' US SOME SORT OF *IDENTIFICATION* !!?

THAT GOES FOR THE YOUNG *LADY*, TOO!

JUST *NORMAL* PRECAUTION, MA'AM--CONSIDERIN' THE *PRESIDENT* HIMSELF IS HERE!!

7

AND *SOMEWHERE*, STRANDED IN TIME, IS *VYKIN, THE BLACK!!*--FEELING THE *LOSS* OF HIS FRIENDS---AND PONDERING HIS SITUATION!!

SO, *THIS* IS WHAT DARKSEID HAS DONE WITH THE *OMEGA EFFECT!!* *WHERE* HAVE I BEEN SHUNTED TO!!??

SUDDENLY--!!!

SEIZE THE BLACK!!

HEY! STOP THAT!! WHO ARE YOU CATS? WHY ARE YOU *BEHAVING* THIS WAY??

SEE THAT? YOU GOT SO *VIOLENT* THAT YOU *BUMPED* INTO MY *ELBOW!*

--AND, *YOU*,-- INTO MY HELMET!

ULK-!!

BE CAREFUL! HE'S *UNLIKE* ANY SAVAGE WE'VE SEEN IN THIS *NEW* LAND! LOOK AT HIS *STRANGE* GARB!!

SPANIARDS!--IN *EARLY AMERICA*, NO LESS!! BEING A *LANGUAGE MAJOR*, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO *DEAL* WITH THEM!!

8

SPEAK, BLACK! HOW DID YOU GET HERE!? ARE YOU A DESERTER FROM PONCE'S SHIPS?

THAT FILLS THINGS IN A BIT!! PONCE DE LEON--THE LANDING IN FLORIDA--

IF FEAR STILLS YOUR TONGUE, BE AT EASE!! OUR PARTY IS ON ITS OWN! WE'RE NOT BEATING THE BUSH FOR PONCE'S MYSTIC FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH!!

LET ME GUESS WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR--!!

DON'T PLAY CAT AND MOUSE WITH ME, BLACK!! IF YOU'VE FOUND GOLD-- YOU'D BEST TAKE US TO IT!!

I'M EQUIPPED TO FERRET OUT HIDDEN MINERALS! FOLLOW ME!

HE'S A STRANGE ONE, ALL RIGHT! BUT HE SHOWS GOOD SENSE!!

GOLD!! HOW MUCH HAVE YOU LOCATED, BLACK?

WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME VYKIN? IT HAPPENS TO BE MY NAME!

AHHHH-- HOW CLEAR AND PURE IS THE AIR OF PRE-INDUSTRIAL EARTH!! THE GREEN LAND AND ITS CREATURES ARE IN OBVIOUS HARMONY HERE!

HE BABBLES ON IN PONCE'S OWN IDIOT FANTASIES!! DO YOU THINK HIS STORY OF HIDDEN GOLD RINGS TRUE?

TRUTH OR LIE--- HE DIES IN ANY CASE!!

9

BUT WAIT! CAN WE FORGET BIG BEAR???

POP!

WHOOPS!! LOOK OUT, FRIENDS! THE OMEGA EFFECT CAUGHT ME IN FULL MOMENTUM!

BY ALL THE DRUID SPIRITS!! A WARLOCK IS AMONG US!!

OOF!! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR! BUT I DID TRY TO WARN YOU!!!

I SEEM TO BE THE VICTIM OF A TIME DISLOCATION !!!

WHAM!

ALLOW ME TO TAKE A WILD GUESS!!

MEDIEVAL DAWN MAN!! CELTIC OR SAXON EMERGENCE!!

!!!@ ~~~!!?

10

HOLD THAT *DELIGHTFUL* ELOQUENCE, SIR!!--

BY ADJUSTING THESE EAR-CIRCUITS TO "*IN-STANTANEOUS TRANSLATION*," I CAN OVERCOME THIS *HANDICAP* OF "LANGUAGE BARRIER!!"

!!?

!!

NOW, GENTLEMEN, WE CAN SPEAK *FREELY*-!!

BEAR OF A WARLOCK!! WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO *ATTACK* THE ROMANS WHEN YOU APPEARED!

CLUMSY FOOL!

BLAST THE WARLOCK! WE CAN *STILL* ATTACK!

SEE, WARLOCK!! THE CURSED OCCUPIERS *LEAVE* OUR LAND!! CAN YOU CAST A *SPELL* TO HELP US HARASS THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY HOME!!?

I CAN MAKE OUT THE ROMAN COMMANDER BIDDING FAREWELL TO THAT *TRAITOR*, ARTA!!

WHO, GOOD FRIENDS, IS THIS FELLOW *ARTA*??

ONE OF *OUR* KIND!-- TRAINED BY THE *LOUTISH* ROMANS AS SENTRIES TO *GUARD* THEIR MILES OF ROAD!!

WELL, *I*, FOR ONE, WOULD LIKE TO *AVOID* ANY PARTISAN FEELINGS AT THIS MOMENT! *DON'T* YOU FELLOWS APPRECIATE THE HISTORIC *IMPORT* OF WHAT'S HAPPENING!?

BIG BEAR, WITHOUT WARNING, BEGINS TO *CONFISCATE* THE WEAPONS FROM *UNWILLING* HANDS!

THE WARLOCK'S GONE *MAD!! KILL HIM!!*

HE'S GOT THE STRENGTH OF *TEN!*

WOULD YOU *PLEASE* GIVE ME YOUR WEAPONS? VIOLENCE WOULD *SPOIL* EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW!!

I REALIZE YOU'RE *SENSITIVE* ABOUT ALL THIS, BUT I *CAN'T* PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY OF ACTUALLY WITNESSING A SIGHT OF SUCH *MAJESTY!!*

THOP!

THOP!

THOP!

THOP!

I'M A *HISTORY BUFF,* YOU KNOW!! ALWAYS *LOVED* IT!

ONE SIDE, PLEASE !!!

HE'S A *DEMON!* ONLY A DEMON COULD LIFT A BOULDER WITH SUCH *EASE!!*

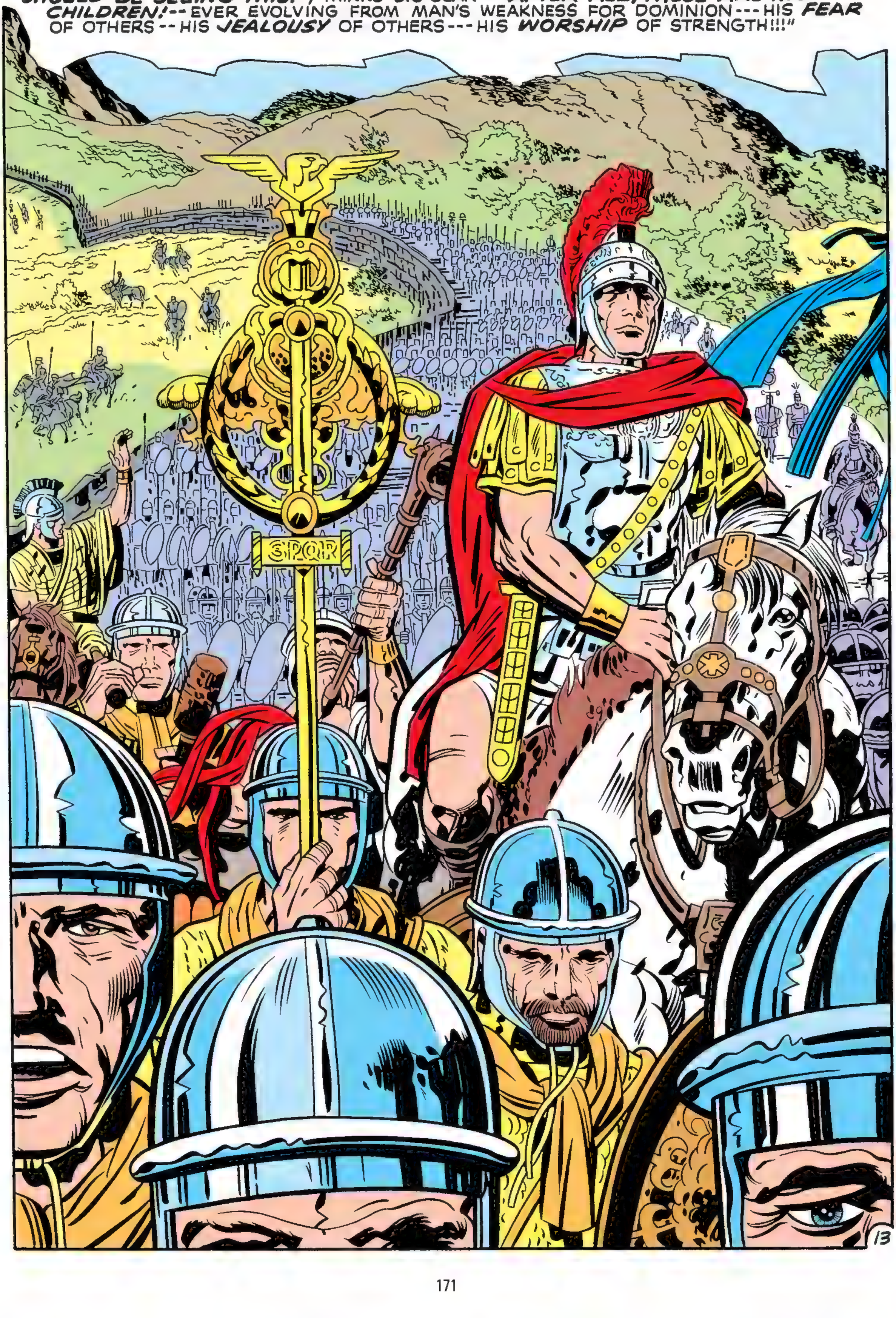
YOU, THERE!-- WITH THE SPIKED HELMET! *DOWN IN FRONT!!*

RELEASE OUR WEAPONS, YOU DEMON!! YOUR *EVIL* MAGIC IS *RUINING* THIS DAY OF VENGEANCE!!

THE ROMANS ARE ON THE *MOVE!* GO HOME, *ROMANS! GO HOME!!*

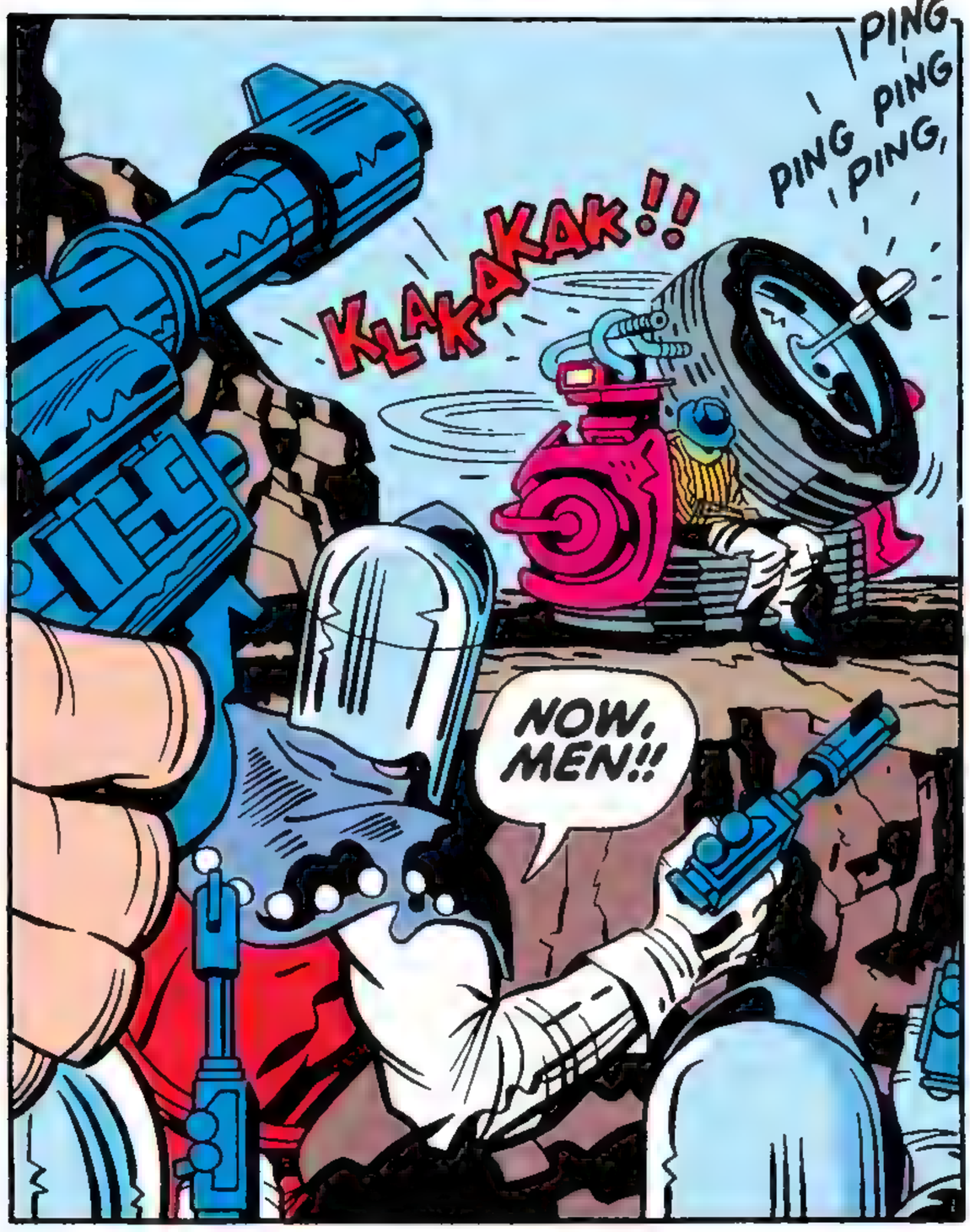
12

THERE IS *NO* DOUBT IN BIG BEAR'S MIND THAT THIS IS THE BIG ROMAN *"PULL-OUT"* FROM *ANCIENT BRITAIN!!*--THE LAST OF THE LEGIONS, CASTING AN ETERNAL IMAGE OF POWER IN THE ROLL AND THUNDER OF THEIR DEPARTURE!! *"IT'S DARKSEID WHO SHOULD BE SEEING THIS!"*, THINKS BIG BEAR---*"AFTER ALL, THESE ARE HIS CHILDREN!*--EVER EVOLVING FROM MAN'S WEAKNESS FOR DOMINION---HIS *FEAR* OF OTHERS--HIS *JEALOUSY* OF OTHERS---HIS *WORSHIP* OF STRENGTH!!!"



STRENGTH IS ALSO THE CREED OF *GLORIOUS GODFREY*, WHO PREACHES *DARKSEID'S REVELATION OF CONFLICT!!* GODFREY IS NEITHER LOST IN TIME NOR SPACE!! HE IS WHERE HE MUST BE!!---AT THE POINT OF *CONFLICT!!*

AND ON THE HILL TOP, *SERIFAN* WAITS BY THE SUPER-CYCLE--WHICH HAS FORMED ITSELF INTO A *DEFENSIVE* POSITION---
---MONITORING--- *WAITING*---



POW POW POW POW POW!

KLAKLAKAKAK!!!

POW POW POW!

THEY'RE *STILL* COMING! LIKE *ALL* ZEALOTS, JUSTIFIERS *NEVER* GIVE UP!!

THE SUPER-CYCLE IS DEFENDING ITSELF *MAGNIFICENTLY!!* BUT SOME ATTACKERS ARE *BOUND* TO BREAK THROUGH!!

IT'S BEST THAT I CHOOSE THE CORRECT *COSMIC CARTRIDGE* FROM MY HAT-BAND ---

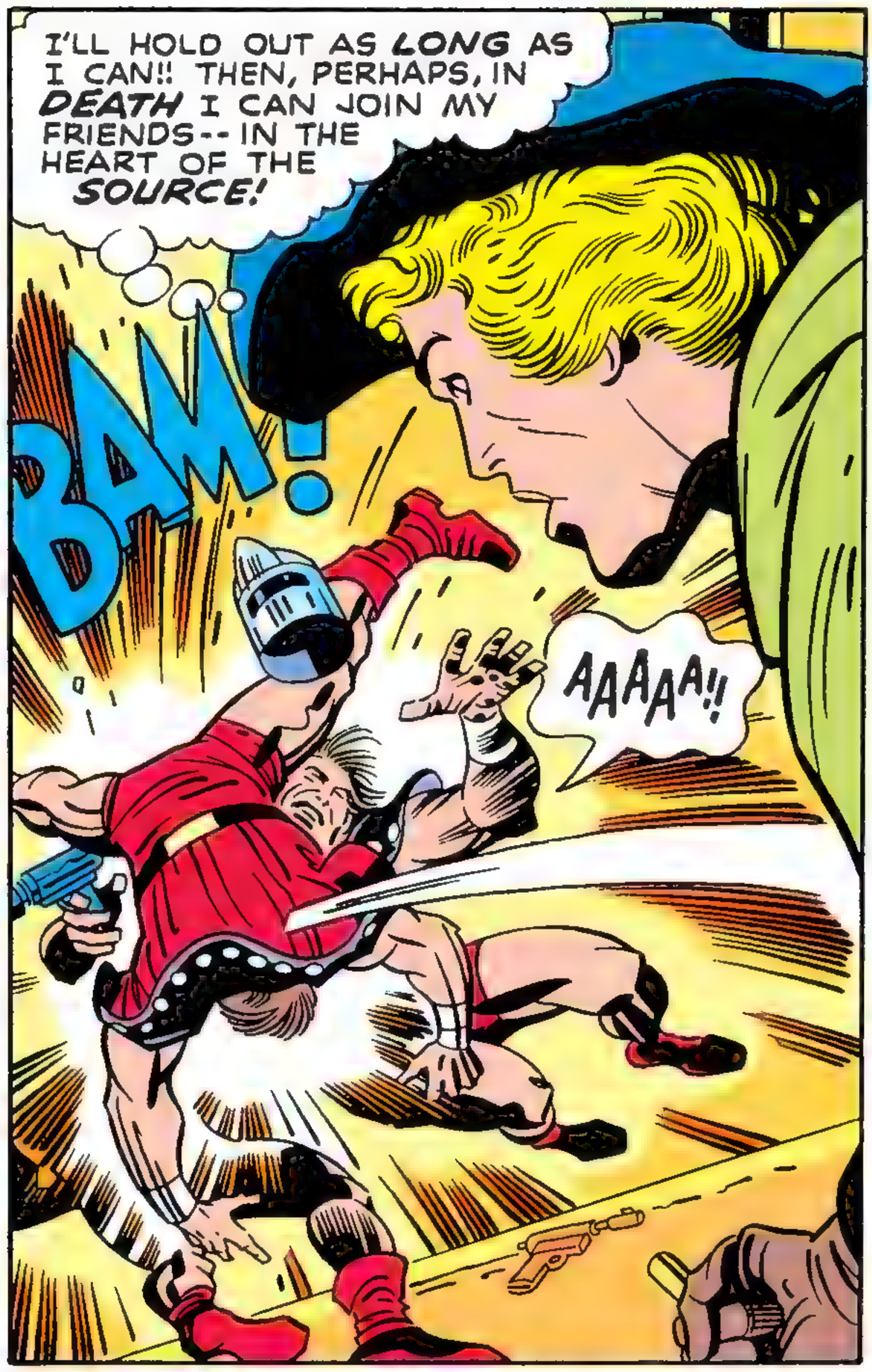
---AND HOLD IT IN *READINESS* FOR *INSTANT* ACTIVATION!!

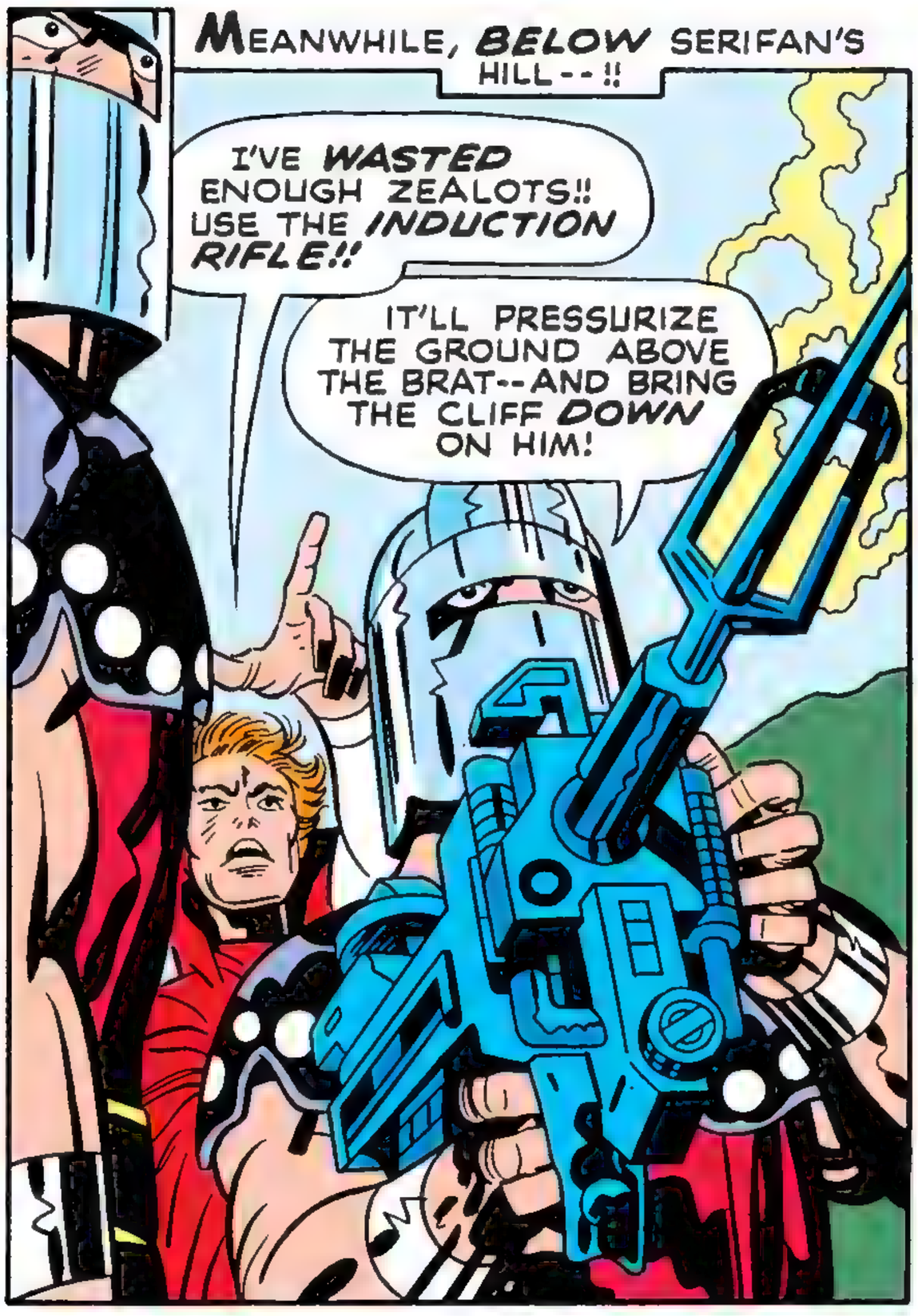
DIE!!-YOU NEW GENESIS *WHELP!!*

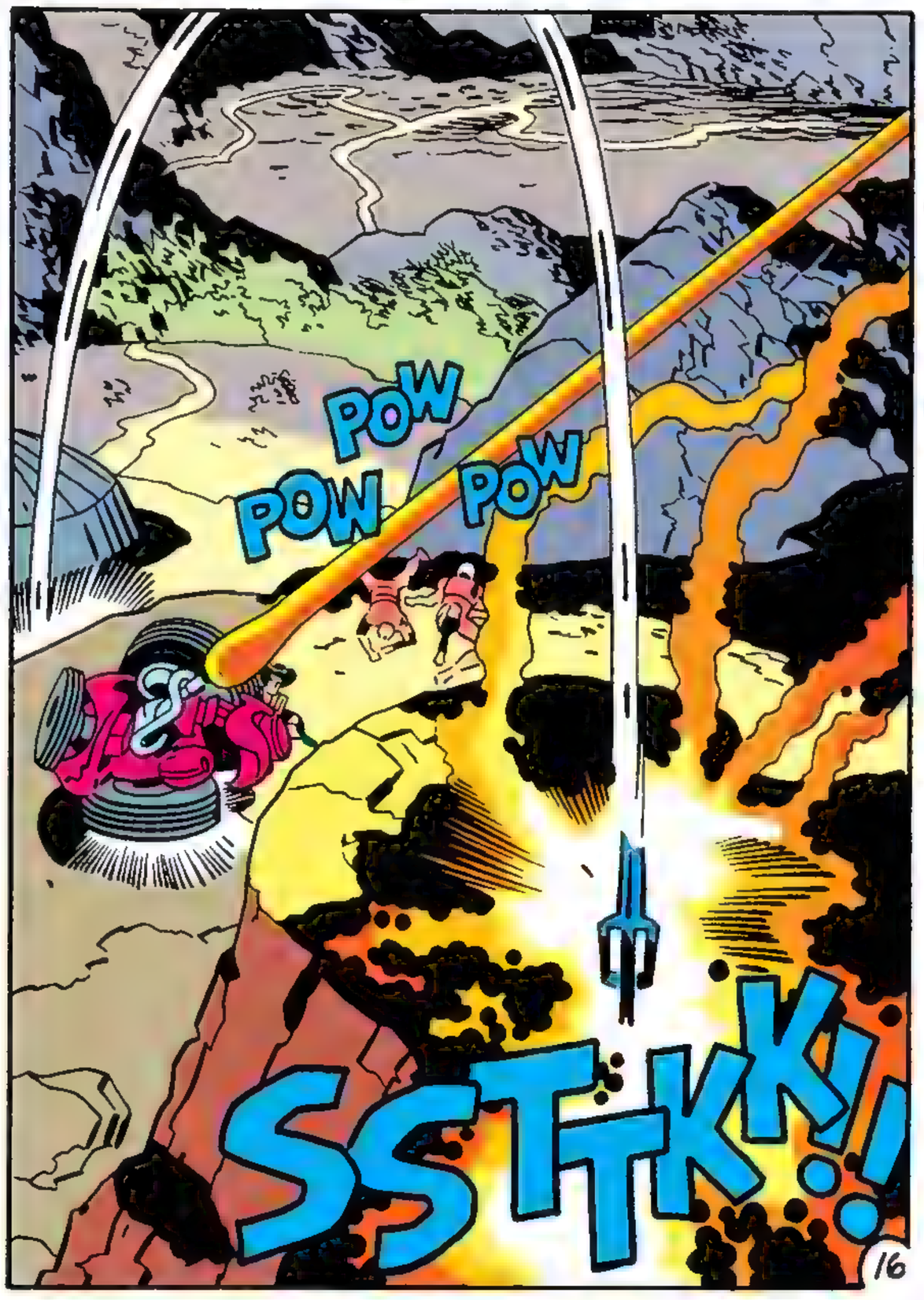
BRAM!

15

EVEN AS THE JUSTIFIER'S WEAPON FIRES, THE COSMIC CARTRIDGE GENERATES A *SHIELD* OF ATOMS--STRONG ENOUGH TO *REPEL* THE SHOT AND CAUSE IT TO REBOUND ON THE ATTACKER!







WOWWWWM!!

SERIFAN IS TRANSFIXED BY THE *TERRIFYING* FALL OF ROCK--AND, SO, MISSES SEEING THE *ALPHA BULLET* STREAKING TOWARD HIM!!

THEN—

A MOMENT LATER, A HUGE, SILENT MOUND OF ROCK TONNAGE *SHROUDS* THE MYSTERY OF HIS FATE!!

IT'S *DONE* WITH, GLORIOUS GODFREY!! BUT JUST *BEFORE* THE STONE STRUCK-- I THOUGHT I SAW--- SOME *STRANGE* PHENOMENON!

I SAW IT, TOO! A THIN *FLASH* OF LIGHT!! IT WAS PROBABLY *FRICTION* CAUSED BY COLLIDING ROCK!!

AND, SO, WE SHALL *LEAVE* THAT MOUND AS IT IS!!--A MONUMENT TO *DARKSEID'S* POWER!!

BREAK TENTS!! IT'S TIME WE MOVED *ELSEWHERE!*

ALPHA-BULLETS!! NEVER SEEN BEFORE ON EARTH---UNTIL THIS MOMENT--ORIGINATE FROM A DIFFERENT HAND!! *THE HAND WHICH GOVERNS NEW GENESIS!!*

THUS, FOR *SERIFAN!* NOW, TO FIND THE *OTHERS-!!*

17

IN THE *CHAMBER OF REGENERATION*, HIGHFATHER ATTUNES HIMSELF TO THE *INFINITE*--AND EXTENDS HIS HAND ONCE MORE!!

I CAN SENSE THEM *ALL* NOW! MOONRIDER! BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! VYKIN THE BLACK! BIG BEAR!--AND SONNY SUMO!!

AS DARKSEID HAS BANISHED THEM WITH HIS BLAZING EYES--I, HIGHFATHER, *GATHER THEM IN*-- WITH THE POWER OF THIS HAND!!!

AS OMEGA ENDS ALL THINGS--*LET ALPHA BEGIN THEM ANEW!! LET THE ALPHA BULLETS FLY!!*

RUSH INTO THE *"SOON TO BE!"* ACROSS THE *"NOW!"* FIND THEM IN THE *"ONCE WAS!"* *FIND* THEM--!! *RESTORE* THEM--!!--WHERE *I* HAVE *MEANT* IT TO BE!!

AND WHERE INFINITY BECOMES THE *PAST*--

YOUR CREDENTIALS *CHECK*, SIR!! THANK YOU!

YOU WERE ONLY DOING YOUR DUTY, OFFICER!

THAT WAS *CLOSE!* HE WAS INSPECTING CREDENTIALS THAT WERE MERE *ILLUSION!!*

WELL, I CREATED WHAT HE *WANTED* TO SEE!! *NOW* WHAT !!??

18

NOW WE MUST BE OUR *TRUE* SELVES! WE MUST DO WHAT IS *TRUE* TO HIGHFATHER! WE MUST *STOP* A KILLING!

OH, *NO!* THAT OLD MAN--! YOU MEAN THAT *SOMEONE* WILL TRY TO-?

MOONRIDER! LOOK!!

WHA-!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, SIR!! DON'T GO UP THERE!! YOU *MUSTN'T* CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN!!

STAND BACK! WHOEVER--OR *WHAT-EVER* YOU ARE!!

PLEASE, SIR! GIVE YOURSELF *ONE* MORE MOMENT TO *THINK* THIS OUT!!

KLIK!

AT THAT MOMENT, AN *ALPHA-BULLET* FINDS ITS DESTINED MARK!!

SSKKSH!

THE *ASSASSIN* EYES A SMALL, FADING PATCH OF LIGHT! HE RUBS HIS EYES AND SAYS--

HALLUCINATIONS! THEY GAVE ME A *FRIGHT!!*

THEN, *RELENTLESS* AND *DRIVEN* BY HIS OBSESSION, HE TURNS ONCE AGAIN TO *STALK* HIS PREY INTO THE *AGES!!!*

BUT THE *TENSIONS* OF MONUMENTAL *VENGEANCE* MUST NOT HINDER THE MONUMENTAL *ACT!!*

FAREWELL, *MISTER LINCOLN!!*

19

FAR, FAR INTO INFINITY SPEED THE REMAINING ALPHA-BULLETS!! AND ONE IS MEANT FOR BIG BEAR!!

THE ROMANS ARE *GONE!!* MUST YOU FELLOWS *STILL* REMAIN SO TOUCHY!!?

AS LONG AS THEY LEFT FOOLS LIKE *ARTA*, THE SENTRY, BEHIND, THERE'LL BE NO END TO STRIFE!!

IF WE COULD ONLY *FREE* OUR WEAPONS, WE'LL SOON SETTLE *THIS* GRIEVANCE!!

BUT YOU'RE *ALL* BRITONS, NOW!! YOU SHOULD *HELP* EACH OTHER!!

WHERE DO YOU TAKE ME, WARLOCK!

HOLD! DO YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT *ME* TO--??

SILENCE, FRIEND! I'M JUST CHECKING! GRASP THAT SWORD AND BE READY TO *PULL!!*

BUT THIS IS MADNESS!! I-I *CAN'T--*

YES, HE CAN! ARTA CAN DO WONDERS IF YOU LET HIM!! THE ROMANS *DIDN'T* JUST GIVE HIM A SPEAR, YOU KNOW!! THEY TAUGHT HIM HOW TO *ORGANIZE* AND *LEAD!!*

THERE! SEE HOW *EASILY* HE DID THAT!! YOUR WARRING TRIBES *NEED* MEN LIKE THAT NOW!!

DID YOU SEE THAT, *GWANE* ??

IT'S MAGIC, *LANSLAC!!*

KLOP!

HA! HA! I SAY, "HAIL ARTA--THE WARLOCK'S PET!"

IF HE LIKES HIM--I LIKE HIM!

AND I LIKE HIM!

SEE!! THE WARLOCK VANISHES!

AND SO IT IS---WHEN THE ALPHA-BULLET STRIKES!!!

HUH--!!?

ALPHA-BULLETS NEVER MISS!! THEY FIND THEIR QUARRY---WHEREVER THEY ARE!!

THESE PROBING CIRCUITS HAVE DONE A FINE JOB! THERE'S GOLD IN THAT TEMPLE!

YOU'VE DONE WELL, VYKIN!! THOSE CRUMBLING STONES SHOW SIGNS OF MINING IN THIS AREA!

RICH REWARD IS IN STORE FOR US ALL!! AND YOU SHALL GET YOUR SHARE OF IT!

NO, THANKS!! MY REWARDS LIE IN STUDY!!

THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THE MINING TECHNIQUES OF THE ANCIENTS WHO PASSED HERE ON THEIR WAY FURTHER SOUTH!

ZZT!

THIS RUIN IS ONLY SURFACE EVIDENCE OF WHAT MAY LIE BELOW!!

WITCHCRAFT!!! HE'S *FADING* AWAY!

SO LOST IN THOUGHT IS VYKIN, THAT HE *NEVER* FEELS THE CONTACT OF THE *ALPHA-BULLET!!* HIS MIND IS SUDDENLY *WARY* OF WHAT MAY LIE *BELOW* HIS FEET---!!

BUT HE IS *GONE* FROM THAT ERA-- WHEN ONE OF THE MANY HIDDEN MINE SHAFTS COLLAPSES AND EXPOSES A *SHORTER* ROUTE TO THE *VALUED* GOLD!!

LOOK OUT!! *AAAA!!*

ACROSS A GREAT VASTNESS FLY THE ALPHA-BULLETS---TO *DOVE-TAIL* AND *EXPLODE* WITH *LIVING* MATTER--- IN THE *TWENTIETH CENTURY!!*

NNKT!

ZZTT!

NNTTT!

WHAT'S HAPPENED! WHERE AM I *NOW!?*

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! WE'VE BEEN *TRANSPORTED* AGAIN!

COSMIC THUNDER! ANOTHER JOURNEY!

MY FRIENDS! WE'VE BEEN *RE-UNITED!!*

OH! *BIG BEAR!!* WHAT A *THRILL* IT IS TO SEE YOU!!

VYKIN! WE'RE *BACK!*

DARKSEID'S WORK HAS BEEN *UNDONE!*

22

DARKSEID SENT ME TO A PLACE OF *VIOLENCE* BUT I HAD A *NICE* TIME!!

HUH! I MET SOME *FOOLS* IN A VERITABLE ECOLOGICAL *PARADISE!!* ---AND ALL THEY WANTED WAS *GOLD!!*

OUR EXPERIENCE WAS *VERY* SAD!!

WE *TRIED* TO SAVE A MAN FROM--- *HISTORY!!*

RRRRUUMRUMBBLE!

WHAT'S THAT SOUND??

IT'S COMING FROM THAT *MOUND* OF ROCKS!!

BOOOM

BENEATH THE PILED STONE, THE *SUPER-CYCLE* HAD RECORDED THE *RETURN* OF ITS CREW, AND *UNCOILING* FROM ITS *FORT* POSITION, HAD *FREED* ITSELF WITH REPELLER-SIGNALS!!

WELL, THE SUPER-CYCLE'S INTACT!! BUT *WHERE IS SERIFAN ??*

I'LL FIND HIM!!

HE *MUST* BE ALIVE! IF DARKSEID SPARED *US*, HE *COULDN'T* HAVE HARMED SERIFAN!!

MY INSTRUMENTS HAVE TRACKED AN ALPHA-BULLET!! IT *FOUND* ITS TARGET!!

SERIFAN!

HE'S BEEN TRANSPORTED LIKE *US!!* BUT *WHERE!!?*?

QUIET, "WORRY-WART!" I'M *TRACING* HIS ATOMIC SHIFT! AND I CAN TELL YOU IT'S COVERED *QUITE* A DISTANCE!! WHERE IS *HONSHU??*

OF COURSE!! WHERE *ELSE* WOULD DARKSEID HAVE SENT *SONNY SUMO?*

23

HONSHU, ONE OF THE THREE *GREAT* ISLANDS KNOWN TO US AS *JAPAN*, HAS RECEIVED THE *LAST* ALPHA BULLET--AND A *MATERIALIZED* SERIFAN!!!

YOU ARE ONE OF THE *FOREVER PEOPLE!*

PING! PING! PING!

MOTHER BOX-- HERE, IN THIS *ANCIENT* TEMPLE!!

YES! IT IS A NAME GIVEN TO THIS OBJECT BY THE GIANT WISE MAN *SUMO*--*MANY* HUNDREDS OF YEARS IN OUR *PAST!!!* UNTIL THIS DAY IT HAS STOOD *SILENT*-- IN OUR KEEPING!

PING

PING---

PING

PING

PING

I SEE!! THANK YOU!

IT BELONGS TO *YOU!!* THE GREAT SUMO WROTE THAT IT WOULD MAKE THIS *SOUND* WHEN THE FOREVER PEOPLE WOULD COME TO *CLAIM* IT!!

TIME IS LADEN WITH MYSTERY AND *PARADOX!!* YOU REALIZE THAT SUMO DID *NOT* BELONG TO THAT ANCIENT ERA!!

NOT SO!! THE GIANT SUMO EARNED *RESPECT* AND *STATURE* AMONG OUR ANCESTORS! HE WAS A *HAPPY* MAN!!

THEN, AS NO MAN EVER HAS, HE *CONQUERED* DARKSEID'S VILLAINY!

GOODBYE, SONNY SUMO!!

WISE MAN, ATHLETE, FARMER--- HE LIVED OUT HIS DAYS AMONG THOSE WHO *LOVED* HIM--- THE *POOR!!*

AND THUS DO *ALPHA* AND *OMEGA* REVOLVE ON THE WHEEL OF DESTINY!! SERIFAN *LEAVES* THE TEMPLE, KNOWING THAT THESE TURN OF EVENTS HERALD A *REUNION* WITH HIS FRIENDS!!

I CAME HERE BY THE POWER OF AN *ALPHA-BULLET!!* HIGHFATHER HAS ACTED FOR US *ALL!!!*

24

NEXT!

EXPOSED IN ALL ITS HORRIFYING AND MALIGNANT MACHINATION!!

--- THE MIND SOUGHT BY GREAT DARKSEID HIMSELF!!! SEE THE STRANGE AND TRUE POSSESSOR OF THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!!

THE MIND THAT WIELDS--

THE POWER!

LONAR
OF NEW GENESIS
AND HIS BATTLE-HORSE THUNDERER!!!

IN THE DAYS OF ***SERENITY,*** BEFORE DARKSEID DREW NEW GENESIS INTO WAR, ORION SPENT TIME ON THE GREEN MOTHER WORLD TO CONTEMPLATE THE TROUBLES ***INSIDE*** HIM!!

BY ALL THE DEMONS--!! ***LONAR!!***-- WHERE IN YOUR WANDERING DID YOU FIND ***THAT!?***

FORGIVE ME, GREAT ORION!! I ***DIDN'T*** INTEND TO SPOIL YOUR HOLIDAY HERE!!

SPOIL IT!!! SPOIL IT!!! ***FIRES OF THE COSMOS!!*** YOU'VE ***SCATTERED*** MY DEPRESSION TO THE WINDS!!

THE MERE ***SIGHT*** OF THAT ANIMAL IS AN INSPIRATION!-- THE TOUCH OF --***MAJESTY!!***

HE CAN BE NO LESS THAN A ***BATTLE-HORSE!!*** THE COMPANION OF ***WARRIORS!!*** IS HE A ***TECHNICAL*** OBJECT??-- MODELED AFTER ANCIENT IMAGES?

NOT MODELED ORION!--BUT ***RESURRECTED*** --FROM THE RUINS OF THE ***OLD*** GODS THEM-SELVES!!

INDEED!! A ***SURVIVOR*** OF THAT ***LAST*** MONUMENTAL HOLOCAUST, NO LESS!!!--WELL, IF ***LONAR*** SPEAKS OF WONDERS--THERE ARE ***NONE*** WHO DOUBT HIM!

HAIL, WARRIOR!!

BETWEEN THE GREAT HORSE AND ORION THERE IS ***INSTANT*** KINSHIP!! THE GREET-ING IS ACKNOWLEDGED!

I'VE NAMED HIM ***THUNDERER!***

AND ***RIGHTLY*** SO!! WHAT A NOISE THOSE MIGHTY LEGS MUST HAVE MADE IN THAT ***FINAL*** CHARGE!! THANK YOU, THUNDERER !!

WHA-! HE ***REARED*** AT YOUR TOUCH, ORION!

BUT ***WHY*** SO!? ***STEADY,*** HORSE! ***STEADY,*** ***THUNDERER*** !!!

HE'S BOLTING, ORION!! I ***CAN'T*** HOLD HIM!! I FEAR HIS OLD MEMORIES ***STILL*** HAUNT HIM!!!

UNTIL THOSE MEMORIES ***VANISH*** WITH THE PAST, FAREWELL, ORION!!

FEAR! FEAR AT THE ***TOUCH*** OF ORION!! IS IT NOT ***ALWAYS*** SO?!

IS IT NOT ALWAYS SO?

WHAT DOES ORION AWAKEN IN ALL LIVING BEINGS THAT FOR ONE FLEETING MOMENT LINKS THEIR SPIRITS WITH HIS!!?? IT'S ONE AMONG ***MANY*** NATURAL MYSTERIES THAT LURE LONAR TO A LIFE OF WANDERING!! HE MUST LEARN ALL BY ***SEEING*** AND ***FEELING*** AND PERHAPS ***SUFFERING*** WITH LIFE AROUND HIM!! TO ***LONAR***--- A BLADE OF GRASS--A HORSE--A FIERCE GOD OF WAR-- ARE ***ETERNAL*** LINKS IN THE CHAIN OF ***TRUTH!!***

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

52 BIG pages DON'T TAKE LESS!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 8

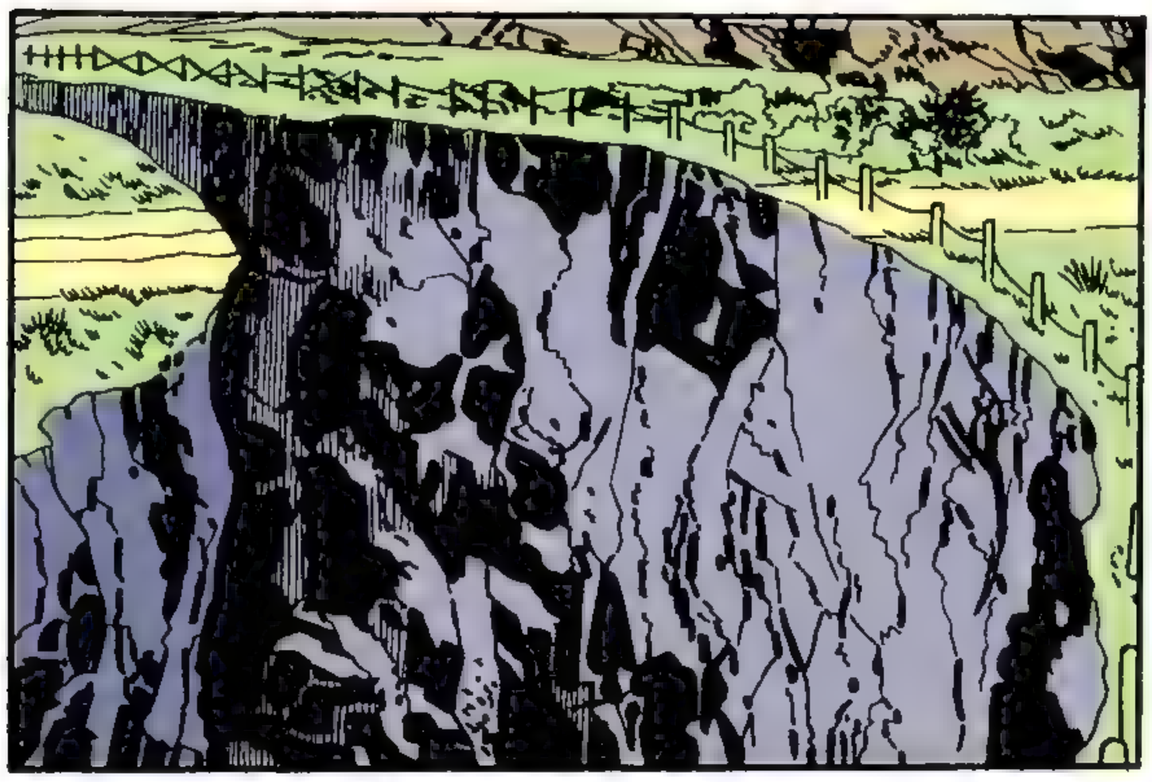
MAY

30490

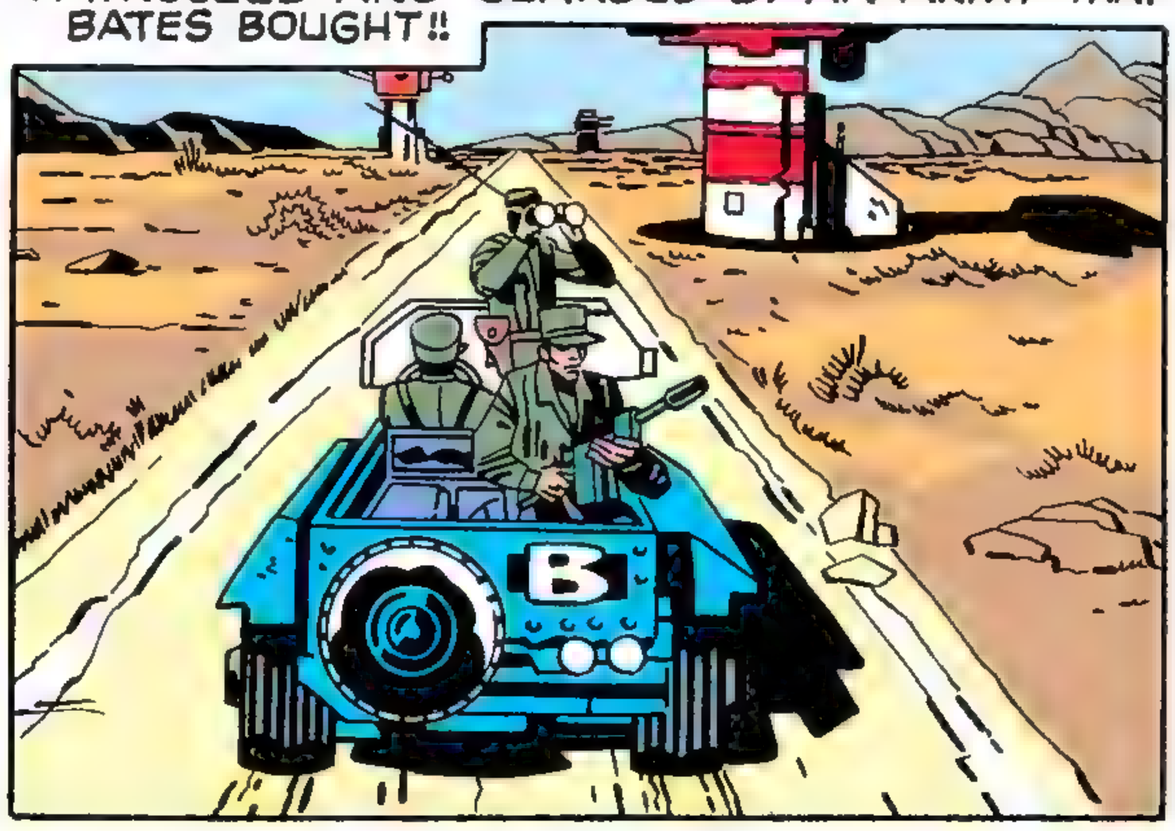
"The PRISONERS OF THE POWER!"

PLUS SANDMAN in "DREAMS OF DOOM!"

THIS IS THE BARRIER THAT BATES BUILT!! IT'S LONG AND WIDE AND DEEP AND EXPENSIVE! BUT IT KEEPS VISITORS FAR FROM THE GATES WHERE BATES LIVES!!



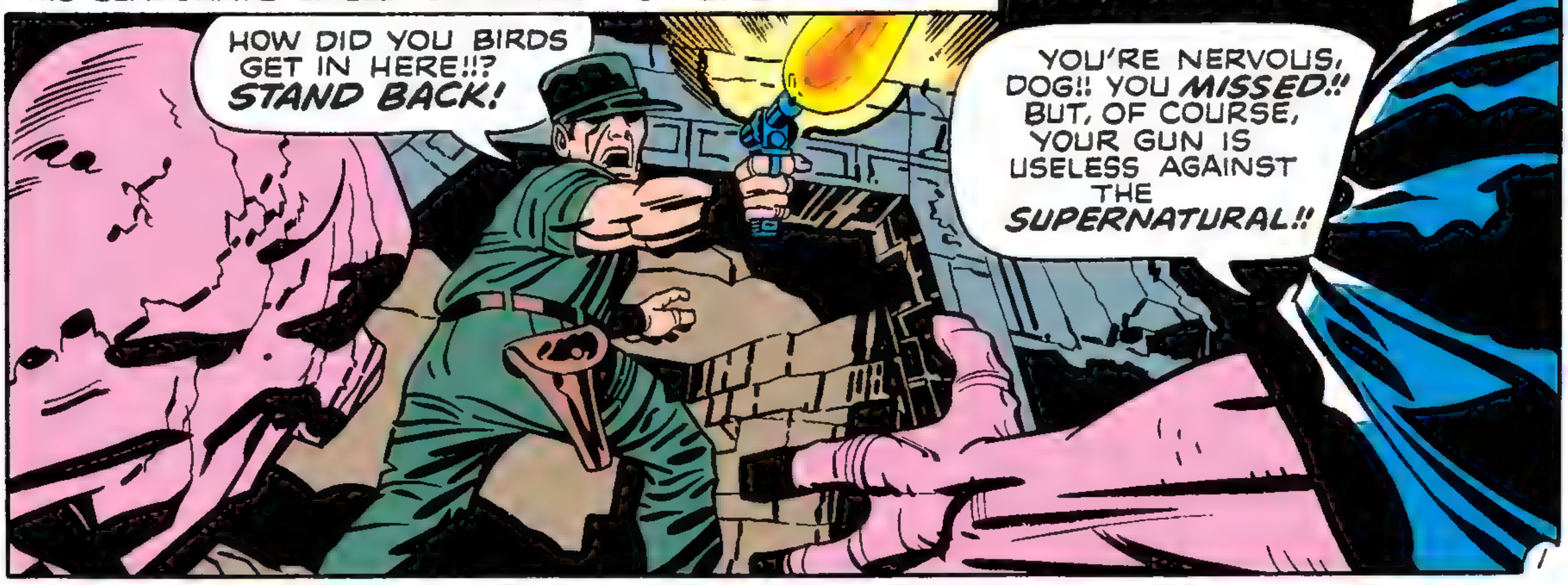
THIS IS THE VAST WASTELAND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARRIER THAT BATES OWNS! IT'S PATROLLED AND GUARDED BY AN ARMY THAT BATES BOUGHT!!



AND AS WE GET CLOSER TO BATES' GATES, WE PASS THROUGH THE TOWN THAT'S EMPTY OF ALL WHOM BATES DIDN'T WANT!! AND THAT WAS EVERYBODY WHO LIVED THERE!!

BUT *BEYOND* THE GATES OF BATES' ESTATES LIES THE MYSTERY THAT LURKS IN THE LOVELY, SPRAWLING, CRAWLING SILENCE!!!

IT'S BELOW, IN THE DEPTHS BENEATH THE ESTATES THAT BELONG TO BATES, WHERE HIS ELABORATE SHIELD OF PRIVACY IS *PENETRATED!!!*



SHOT AFTER SHOT BLASTS THROUGH THE DAMP, COLD *DARKNESS* OF THE *EERIE* HOLLOWS THAT REACH OUT LIKE CROOKED SPIDERS IN THE EARTH BELOW!! THE SECRETS THAT SURROUND THE NAME OF BATES ARE UNDER *ASSAULT* BY STRANGE *INVADERS*---*FOR THESE SECRETS HIDE A MAN IN POSSESSION OF A FORCE OF TERRIFYING MAGNITUDE*---*THE MAN WITH*---

THE POWER!

BAM! BAM!

---FOR WHO CAN DENY THE MYSTIC POWERS OF *THE SECT!!!*-- WHY---*NOT* EVEN YOUR OMNIPOTENT *MISTER BATES!!*

DON'T GIMME THAT!! YOU GUYS *AIN'T* PART OF MISTER BATES' SECT!! I *SAW*---!!!-

2

YOU SAW US *MATERIALIZE!!*-- AND PUT ON THE MASKS AND COSTUMES OF THE *SECT!!*

WE'RE *NEW* DISCIPLES!! WE'RE HERE TO *HONOR* MISTER BATES!!

YOU'RE UP TO *NO* GOOD!! LET ME GO! *LET ME GO!!*

FOOL!! THE POWER OF OUR *TOUCH* IS ENOUGH TO *DESTROY* YOUR WEAPON!!

AAAAA!!

WAM

BUT YOUR CATERWAULING DESERVES MORE *SEVERE* RESPONSE!!

KRAAK

HE'S SILENCED!!--- BUT *LIFELESS!!*

NO MATTER!! WE'LL TOSS HIM WITH THE *OTHERS!*

THINGS HAVE GONE ***WELL!!*** OUR ARRIVAL IS NOW A ***WELL*** KEPT SECRET!!

THE STRANGERS FILE DOWN ***ANCIENT,*** CRUMBLING CORRIDORS ---BEARING THEIR LIMP BURDEN PAST CRYPTS THAT ***BARELY*** SERVE AS GUARDIANS OF THE DEAD!!!

THEN, THE BEARERS HALT AT A THRONE HEWN OUT OF ***FUNERAL*** STONE!!

AS THE ***LEADER*** CAN SEE --- WE'VE DISPOSED OF THE ***LAST*** SENTRY IN THESE CATACOMBS!

LET ONE OF US ***REPLACE*** HIM!---AS WE'VE DONE WITH THE ***MEMBERS*** OF THE SECT THAT PRACTICED DOWN HERE!!

THERE ***STILL*** REMAINS ***MISTER BATES,*** WHO LIVES IN SPLENDOR ABOVE THESE CAVES!!--

HE'LL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH!---

NOW DROP HIM INTO THE CRYPT AND ***SEAL*** THE EVIDENCE OF OUR ***"TAKE-OVER!!"***

DONE, SIRE!!

4

WE CONTROL THESE CAVES!

WE ARE NOW ---THE SECT!!

AND NOW, WE SUMMON THE SECT'S MOST DANGEROUS DISCIPLE!!---BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!!--- THE MAN WITH THE POWER!!

READY, SIRE!

THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN! THE PERILOUS CHARADE BEGINS!!!

BONGG

THE STRIDENT ECHOES CLAMOR DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE CATACOMBS!!---AND BEYOND--- TO WAITING SENTRIES!!

HEAR THAT!? IT MEANS THE "TAKE-OVER" IS COMPLETE!!

ONGONGONG

AS OUR COMRADES ARE THE SECT--- WE ARE THE SENTRIES!

DO YOUR JOB---SENTRY! ALERT THE UPPER LEVELS!!

DONE!

I'LL SEE THAT MISTER BATES IS INFORMED AT ONCE-!!

THIS IS THE CATACOMBS POST! WE'VE JUST HEARD THE GONG! THE SECT IS READY FOR THE CEREMONIES!

5

THE STAGE IS SET FOR EVENTS THAT ARE INDESCRIBABLY SINISTER!! WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE CATACOMBS IS A SURPRISE TWIST IN THE GROTESQUE PLAY WHO'S STAR IS ONE BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!! BUT NOT ALL OF THE CAST HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED!! FATE AND THE SUPER-CYCLE ARE ARRIVING WITH···

THE FOREVER PEOPLE!

GET A LOAD OF WHAT'S HAPPENING!! WE'VE GOT ***TOURISTS*** IN TOWN!! AND THEY'VE BROUGHT THEIR OWN ***FIREWORKS!!***

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE FIREWORKS BROUGHT THEM!! IT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR---WITHOUT BEING STOPPED---OR KILLED!!

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY ***JACK KIRBY***

WITH

PATIENCE, FORTITUDE AND INK BY ***MRS. ROYER'S*** BOY--- ***MIKE!!***

6

WELCOME TO "NOWHERE," *FLOWER FREAKS!!* HOW DID YOU GET TO THIS TOWN---*ALIVE!?*

I'D SAY, CONSIDERING THIS RECEPTION, THE TRICK WOULD BE GETTING *OUT* OF THIS TOWN---ALIVE!!

B-BUT THIS TOWN LOOKS DESERTED!

THIS TOWN IS *MEANT* TO BE DESERTED!! ---EXCEPT BY OUR PATROLS!! NOW--- *HOW* DID YOU GET HERE !!?

BY THE *ELECTRON ROAD,* OF COURSE !!

WELL, AT ANY RATE, OUR SUPER-CYCLE CAN LOCK INTO IT!! WE *"PHASE OUT"* AND THEN PHASE BACK "IN!"

I-IT'S LIKE YOUR *JET-STREAM*-- ONLY A LITTLE *MORE* COMPLEX!!

THEY *DON'T* UNDERSTAND, *VYKIN!!*

DON'T VOLUNTEER ANY *FURTHER* EXPLANATIONS, *MOONRIDER!* THESE ARE HOSTILE MEN! AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO *USE* THEIR WEAPONS!!

THOSE WERE YOUR *LAST* WORDS!!

BAM!

SEE WHAT I *MEAN,* MARK?

ZOK!

STOMP!

7

THOSE "HIPPIES" MOVE LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING! OPEN FIRE!! KILL THE LOT OF THEM!!

POW POW POW

BRAAKAK!

LOOK AT 'EM MOVE !!!

BLAST 'EM-! THEY'RE *FASTER'N* JACKRABBITS!!

TAKE COVER!!

BUT, *UNMINDFUL* OF THE DANGER, *BIG BEAR* STUDIES THE SUPER-CYCLE'S "RESPONSE" CIRCUITS!!

DEMON'S DREGS!! WHAT'S ALL THAT *NOISE* ABOUT!!?

ZAP

POW

SPAAANNGG!!!

YOU THERE!... YOU *MILITARY* TYPES!! *PUT THOSE WEAPONS AWAY!* I'M ENGAGED IN *EXTREMELY* DELICATE WORK!!

ZAPOW!

SPEEOW!!

BDAM

THAT NUT MUST BE WEARING AN *ARMORED* HAIR-SHIRT!! I'D SWEAR I HIT HIM *FOUR* TIMES!!

FFTOWP!

POW! POW!

THAT GIANT'S MADE OF *STEEL!!* HE'S *TEARING* THE CAB OFF THAT TRUCK!! WITH *HIS BARE HANDS* !!!

SOME *HEAVIER* FIRE-POWER'LL FINISH HIM!! I'VE JUST CALLED FOR A *TANK!!*

WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, BIG BEAR HEAVES THE TORN TRUCK-CAB AT HIS ASTOUNDED EXECUTIONERS!!!

THIS SHOULD SCATTER YOU BARKING DOGS!!

LOOK OUT!!

WITH *SHATTERING* FORCE, THE SEVERED VEHICLE STRIKES *HARD!!*...AND SENDS ITS PIECES FLYING IN ALL DIRECTIONS!!

BLAAM!

RUN!! THAT GUY'LL BE THROWIN' *BUILDINGS* NEXT!!

THEY'RE *STILL* FIRING!! I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE CONVINCED THEM *ALL* TO STOP THIS DEPLORABLE CONDUCT!

TZK TZK TZK

NOW, SEE HERE, YOU---*OOF!!*

BLOW!

LIKE AN ARMORED DINOSAUR FROM OUT OF THE DIM PAST, A HEAVY *TANK* OF ADVANCED DESIGN LUMBERS INTO VIEW!!

HE'S *ALIVE!* HE--*CAN'T* BE HUMAN!

OF ALL THE *MAD* ACTS I'VE EVER WITNESSED, THAT WAS THE MEANEST!! IF I DIDN'T HAVE AN *EXCESS* OF FREE FLOATING ATOMS TO REINFORCE MY BODY STRUCTURE, THAT SHOT COULD HAVE *SERIOUSLY* INJURED ME!!

WELL, I'M STILL IN THE GAME!! HERE'S THE OTHER HALF OF THE TRUCK !!

BAM!

WHOOOMM

BA-BOOM!

THAT SHOULD *COOL* YOU SOLDIER-BOYS DOWN A BIT!! IF THAT WAS THE EXTENT OF YOUR ARSENAL, *GIVE IT UP AND GO HOME!!*

OW!

NOT YET, *SUPER-TARGET!!* WE'VE *NEVER* TRIED OUT THESE NEW HIGH-VOLTAGE *ELECTRO-PISTOLS!* THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO STUN A *REGIMENT!!*

10

BIG BEAR SEEMS VERITABLY *IMPENETRABLE!!* THE SHOTS CAUSE A FIERY *BACKLASH* WHICH *REBOUNDS* ON HIS ATTACKERS!!!

WOF!!

WELL, IF THAT ISN'T THE *LIMIT!!* SOME OF YOU EARTHMEN MUST BE TAKING BASIC TRAINING IN *APOKOLIPS!!* I HOPE THIS HAS TAUGHT YOU TWO A LESSON!

WE'VE HAD IT! THE *ONLY* ANSWER TO THESE WEIRDOS IS *MISTER BATES!!*

AS THE ECHOES OF BATTLE *FADE* IN THE DESERTED STREETS, A *NEW* PHENOMENON TAKES PLACE!!

THAT LIGHT! SOMEONE'S "PHASING IN-!" IT MUST BE-

PING PING PING

SERIFAN! YOU COPY-CAT COWBOY!! YOU *"HOMED"* IN ON MY CIRCUIT SIGNALS, AFTER ALL!

WITH THE HELP OF *MOTHER BOX!!*

WHEN OUR CYCLE-CIRCUITS BROUGHT US TO THIS MISERABLE PLACE---I BEGAN TO PROBE FOR SIGNS OF YOU!! THEN THE TROUBLE STARTED!!

BIG BEAR!! WHEN I GAVE THE ORDER TO TAKE COVER, IT INCLUDED *YOU!!*

SERIFAN'S BACK!!---AND HE'S GOT *MOTHER BOX!!*

FOR SERIFAN'S TRAVELS--- SEE PREVIOUS ISSUE--- *J.K.*

I SHOULD BE READING THE *"RIOT ACT"* TO BIG BEAR! BUT I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU, SERIFAN!

MARK! VYKIN! BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! I *MUST* TELL YOU--

HOLD IT! SOMETHING'S *HAPPENING!*

THAT STORE WINDOW HAS BECOME A *TELE-SCREEN!!* ---AND WE'VE GOT A *VIEWER!*

THE NAME IS *BATES!*--

--*BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!!* THAT MEANS I'VE GOT MONEY, SON! THAT MEANS I'VE GOT ALL THAT GOES WITH IT---AND *THEN SOME!!*

I'VE JUST BEEN TOLD THAT MY MEN *CAN'T* HANDLE YOU!!

WELL, *I* CAN!! NOW--- IN THE NEXT FEW SECONDS, ONE OF MY OFFICERS WILL CONTACT YOU!! *YOU'RE TO OBEY ANY ORDER HE GIVES YOU!! ANY ORDER!!*

THAT'S AN *ARBITRARY* ATTITUDE YOU'VE GOT, SIR! WE MEAN TO *RESIST* ANY FURTHER ATTEMPT TO PLACE US IN JEOPARDY!

HA! YOU'D NEED THE POWERS OF *DARKSEID* HIMSELF TO MAKE THIS SCARE TACTIC WORK!!!

WHAT A WINDBAG!!

ALL RIGHT, YOU CHARACTERS!! *ABOUT FACE!! STOP* THE RAPPIN' AND FORM A LINE, SINGLE FILE!!

NOW- FOLLOW ME!!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!! BUT I *MUST* DO AS HE SAYS!

I-I *CAN'T* HELP BUT *OBEY!*

NOR *I!*

WHEREVER HE LEADS-- I'VE *GOT* TO FOLLOW!!!

AND IN THE *VAST* RESIDENCE OF BILLION-DOLLAR BATES---

SASSY KIDS!! I *DON'T* KNOW WHAT THEY'VE GOT THAT CAN BEFUDDLE MY MEN!!---BUT THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' ALIVE THAT CAN *"BACK-TALK"* TO THE HEADMAN!!

I GOT THE *"POWER"!* FRIENDS! HAD IT SINCE BIRTH! BUT *NEVER* KNEW IT! I ALWAYS FIGGERED I GOT MY WAY CUZ I WAS A GREAT *"WHEELER DEALER!"*

WELL---SOMEHOW, FOLKS JUST KEPT *GIVIN'* ME WHATEVER I "WHEELED" AND "DEALED" FOR-!

AND, THAT WAS *MONEY,* FRIENDS! *HEAPS* OF IT!! BUT IT *WASN'T* JUST BUSINESS "SAVVY" THAT DID THE TRICK!!

NO, SIR!! IT WAS THE *"POWER!"* I HAD IT---BUT *DIDN'T* KNOW IT!! THAT IS, NOT UNTIL I TOOK FEAR O' THE LAW---AND LIT OUT O' THE COUNTRY!!---AND FOUND--- *THE SECT!!*

OH! THAT *HORRIBLE* SATANIC BAND OF *EVIL* WORSHIPPERS!

YOU'RE *DANGEROUS,* BATES! I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T TURN IN OUR REPORT ON YOU--- INSTEAD OF COMING HERE-!

YES, YOU DO, FRIEND!! YOU CAME HERE ---CUZ *I TOLD YOU TO--* !!

MY CIGAR SEEMS TO BOTHER YOU!! GUESS IT'S KINDA STRONG'N' SMELLY-LIKE, EH? MEBBE YOU'D CHANGE YORE MIND IF YOU TRIED A PUFF!!

I SAID-- *SMOKE IT!!*

13

HEHEHEHEH!! NOT MUCH OF A SMOKER—ARE YOU, LAWYER!?

JEST KEEP TRYIN'!—-CHOKIN' BUT TRYIN'!—CUZ YOU AIN'T GOT ANY CHOICE IN THE MATTER!!

COUGH! COUGH! UGH!

HOW 'BOUT THAT, MISTER BIG PUBLISHER!! HE'S GONNA SMOKE THAT CIGAR UNTIL I SAY HE KIN DROP IT! YOU BELIEVE THAT?

I BELIEVE IT, BATES! I BELIEVE YOU'VE ACQUIRED SOME KIND OF STRANGE POWER!

A PISTOL IN MY PLATE! I SUPPOSE I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS WHAT YOU'VE GOT IN MIND FOR ME!

I'M TELLIN' YOU TO PICK UP THAT PISTOL!—POINT IT TO YOUR HEAD!!—--AND PULL THE TRIGGER!!

HUH!! YOU'D KILL YERSELF QUICK AS A WHISTLE!—IF THERE WERE BULLETS IN THAT GUN!!

KLIK! KLIK!

K-I-K

---AND YOU, MISS PROMINENT COMMITEE-WOMAN---AND THIS RESPECTED LEADER OF OUR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY—YOU SEE NOW, WHAT IT MEANS TO ANTAGONIZE ME!

LOOK AT'CHA!! THE NATIONAL PANEL APPOINTED BY CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE THE DEALINGS OF BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!!---WELL, NOW, YOU'RE NO MORE'N MY PUPPETS!!

14

WHEN I *CALLED* EACH O' YOU BY PHONE, YOU *LISTENED!* WHEN MY PLANE CAME TO GET'CHA, YOU *BOARDED* IT!! NOW---

RISE, PUPPETS!! I'M YOUR *BOSS* NOW! IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES-- I'M GONNA BE *EVERYBODY'S* BOSS!!

O'COURSE, IT'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE *"MUMBO JUMBO"* TO SATISFY THE SECT! BUT I *OWE* IT TO 'EM! FOLLOW ME! WE'RE GONNA TAKE THIS ELEVATOR DOWN TO THE CATACOMBS!

THEN THE RUMORS ARE *TRUE!* YOU *DO* CONDUCT SECRET RITUALS ON THIS ESTATE!

WELL, *WHATEVER* THESE MYSTICS HAVE RELEASED IN YOUR MIND, BATES--- IT MAY BECOME TOO *BIG* FOR YOU TO HANDLE!!

JEST KEEP *TELLIN'* THAT TO YERSELF, PUPPET!! KEEP *HOPIN'* IT--- EVEN AS I SPREAD THE "POWER" *WORLDWIDE* !!

MEANWHILE, IN THE CAVES BELOW---

WELL, YOU BROUGHT US HERE! WHAT *NOW!?*

YES! WHAT NOW!?

THAT'S *ENOUGH* OUTTA YOU TWO!! YOU ALL *WAIT* HERE! *DON'T* MOVE UNTIL I GET *BACK!!*

OH, MY! I-I *CAN'T* TAKE A STEP FORWARD FROM THIS SPOT! I-IT'S LIKE HAVING A *MENTAL BLOCK* AGAINST WALKING!

WE *DON'T* HAVE TO MOVE! MOTHER BOX CAN MOVE US!! SHE CAN *"PHASE"* US *OUT* OF HERE!

I KNOW THAT! BUT WE'RE GOING TO *STAY!*

ARE YOU *MAD,* MARK!?

THIS BILLION-DOLLAR BATES IS OUT THERE! AND THERE'S *NO* DOUBT THAT HE POSSESSES THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION!!* DON'T YOU REALIZE THE *DANGER* WE'RE IN?

OF COURSE!

MANY EARTHMEN ARE FOOLISH AND RUTHLESS! THIS BATES MAY DECIDE TO *DESTROY* US!!

A-AND WE *COULDN'T* STOP HIM!!

WE MUST *IGNORE* THAT POSSIBILITY! WE MUST SOMEHOW DISARM THIS MAN BATES AND MAKE CERTAIN HIS POWER IS *NEUTRALIZED!!*

BUT *HOW,* MARK? EVEN *DARKSEID* HIMSELF WOULD FEAR SUCH A TASK!

EITHER *WE* MOVE ON BATES ---OR OUR *ENEMY* DOES!! FEAR *WON'T* STOP DARKSEID!

TELL US WHAT TO DO, MARK!

16

SOON AFTER, THE GUARD RETURNS--- WITH MASKED MEMBERS OF THE SECT!!

WHA-?

STAND FAST, PUPPETS!! DON'T RESIST THE CHAINS OR STOCKS!

WELL--! YOU TYPES WILL MAKE *PERFECT* OFFERINGS TO THE FORCES OF THE *MYSTIC* UNKNOWN!!

YOU HEARD THEM! *DON'T RESIST ANYTHING THEY DO!!* I'LL BE AT MY POST--- WHICH WON'T BE FAR FROM THE BIG SHOW!!

I DON'T KNOW THE NATURE OF YOUR CEREMONIES, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'M *NOT* EXACTLY WILD ABOUT THESE *MEANS* YOU TAKE TO PERFORM THEM!!

THESE ARE MERE *SYMBOLS* OF YOUR *HELPLESSNESS* BEFORE THE *"POWER!"*

MARK! YOU *KNOW* ABOUT MANKIND'S ANCIENT ADDICTION TO SECRET SOCIETIES AND RITUALS! THEY'VE BEEN KNOWN TO INVOLVE *LIVING SACRIFICE!!*

SILENCE! THE RITES ARE ABOUT TO *BEGIN!!*

DON'T WEAKEN, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!

17

IN A LARGE CENTRAL AREA, THE SECT GATHERS--- CHANTING TO ITS ANCIENT DEITIES---INCITING THE "UNSEEN" TO GRANT THEM-- THE *"POWER!"*

AND NOW WE *HAVE IT!*

THE SECT HAS *KEPT* THE FAITH--- AND *EVOKED* THE "POWER!" --- AND *GAINED* THE "POWER!"

---AND MADE THE VESSEL TO *STORE* THE "POWER!"

---A VESSEL SHAPED BY *STUDY!*-- BY *BRAIN STIMULA-TION!* BY STRENGTH OF *WILL!*

AND YOU KNOW *WHO* THAT LITTLE OLE VESSEL IS, BROTHERS! *BILLION-DOLLAR BATES* CAME TO YOU! AND YOU *SHOWED* HIM THE WAY!!

AND NOW, LET HIM SHOW *YOU* THE WAY, BROTHERS!! STAY AT HIS SIDE--! --AS HE EMBRACES *ALL* OF MANKIND ---WITH THE *"POWER!"*

AFTER YEARS OF GENERATING THE "POWER" IN *SECRECY,* ---BUILDING IT TO ITS FULL AND FEARSOME *POTENCY*--- I ESTABLISH IT, THIS NIGHT, AS *WORLD REGENCY!!!*

AND MAN WILL *ANSWER,* BROTHER BATES! MAN WILL *ANSWER!!*

MAN WILL ANSWER BECAUSE HE MUST ANSWER! HE WILL BE AS THESE SYMBOLS ABOUT TO BE *REVEALED!!*

B

18

BEHOLD, BROTHERS! BEHOLD THE LIVING SYMBOLS OF MANKIND WITHOUT THE GUIDANCE OF THE "POWER!" HIS MIND IS FREE AND AIMLESS! HIS BODY SHACKLED BY DISUNITY!

WOW! GET THAT ORWELL "DOUBLE THINK!"

I'VE READ "1984"--- IT SOUNDS NASTIER ---WHEN SPOKEN!!

IT'S LIKE WATCHING DARKSEID'S IMAGE REFLECTED IN A HUMAN MIRROR!!

TONIGHT, WE'RE GONNA HARNESS THOSE MINDS, BROTHERS-! UNIFY THOSE MINDS IN BATES' THOUGHTS! FREE THEIR BODIES--- FOR BATES' ORDERS!

-AND GLORIFY OUR TRIUMPH BY OBLITERATIN' THESE UGLY SYMBOLS OF "FREE MAN!"

-OH-OH!

IN THE NAME OF THE "POWER" I ONCE AGAIN PUT ON THE "STIMULUS HAT!"---WHICH IN THIS CENTURY HAS FOUND WHAT THE ANCIENT SECT BROTHERS HAVE SEARCHED FOR!

ITS RIGHTFUL WEARER-!

---WHOSE MIND WILL NOW STIR THE MYSTIC CIRCUITS TO SURGE BEYOND ALL HORIZONS!

---AND GRIP! ---AND HOLD! ---AND UNIFY! ALL WITHIN RANGE OF THE "POWER!"

19

PLACED ON THE HEAD OF BILLION-DOLLAR BATES, THE "STIMULUS HAT" LEAPS TO LIGHT AND CRACKLES WITH COSMIC ENERGY!

SUDDENLY, THE ENERGY INTENSIFIES!---GROWS BRIGHTER! --- GROWS UNBEARABLY BRIGHTER!

AAAAAAA!

THEN—!

WHAM!

PERFECT! HE'S IN SHOCK!---BUT STILL *ALIVE!*---AND THE *ANTI-LIFE EQUATION* LIES READY TO BE *PLUCKED* FROM THAT LIVING BRAIN!

FIRES OF THE PITS!! SOME INVISIBLE FORCE HAS *SNATCHED* HIM FROM MY GRASP!

DON'T STAND THERE AND GAPE AT IT, YOU FOOLS!! HAUL THAT MAN DOWN! GET HIM!

AFTER HIM! DON'T STOP UNTIL YOU'VE GOT HIM!!

20

WAIT! WHERE ARE THE PRISONERS THAT WERE BOUND IN THOSE STOCKS AND CHAINS!?

THE BIG, HAIRY ONE-! ---HE'S GONE! VANISHED!!

IDIOTS! YOU'RE BEARING EMPTY CHAINS!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SIRE!! THE PRISONERS WERE IN OUR KEEP! THEY COULDN'T HAVE--!

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE, YOU DOLTS! THE FOREVER PEOPLE WERE NEVER IN YOUR KEEP! YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED BY THE FEMALE! SHE HAS THE POWER TO---

---TO MAKE ILLUSIONS, DESAAD! ---LIKE THE ONE YOU'VE BEEN CHASING!

HERE'S YOUR QUARRY, DESAAD! BATES CAN NO MORE FLY THAN A GROUND-HOG!

NOW, GOOD FRIENDS---LET'S LEAVE WITH OUR PRIZE!

21

THERE'S A CLEAR CORRIDOR! SERIFAN CAN ACTIVATE MOTHER BOX AND *PHASE US OUT!!*

HURRY! IF DESAAD IS HERE, *DARKSEID* CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!!

HOLD IT! I-I THINK THAT-WE'VE-*FOUND*-HIM!

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!

IF YOU STILL FEAR THE *OMEGA EFFECT*-YOU'LL HAND OVER BATES!

THE OMEGA EFFECT *CAN'T* WIPE US OUT WITHOUT STRIKING BATES--

WHA--!

BAM

BAM

THREE SHOTS RING OUT---AND THEN, A DEEP SILENCE FILLS THE CAVES!!

MISTER BATES--- WHEN I SAW HIM IN THEIR HANDS---I--I-- REACTED---*TOO FAST--!*

KRAK!

THAT *PRICELESS* BRAIN ---WITH ITS ANTI-LIFE EQUATION ---*LOST!!*

FORGIVE ME, SIRE! *I* BROUGHT THE GUARD! I KNEW HE WAS GIVEN *POWER* OVER THE FOREVER PEOPLE!! I—

22

BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!! TO THINK THAT DESTINY WOULD STORE THE ULTIMATE POWER IN A YAPPING JACKAL'S HIDE!!

---WHILE DARKSEID,--- THE SPEARHEAD OF PURE ELEMENTAL FORCE--MUST THIRST FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE!

YES! HOW DISGUSTINGLY DEMOCRATIC THE FATES ARE! ---SIRE!!

IT'S BETTER THAT THE EQUATION HAS BEEN LOST WITH BATES---THAN WON TO YOU!

SILENCE! THIS NIGHT'S CHARADE IS OVER!!

BATES WOULD HAVE FUMBLED IT! YOU'D HAVE USED IT TOO WELL!

SNATCHING THE ANTI-LIFE EQUATION FROM ITS BEARER WAS A DANGEROUS AND DELICATE OPERATION AT BEST!!

AND WHEN YOU TRY IT AGAIN, WE SHALL BE THERE!

WE WON'T STOP FIGHTING UNTIL THERE'S AN END TO YOUR WAR!!

---AND AN END TO YOU!!

I SAID "BE SILENT!"

ARE YOU WARRIORS OF NEW GENESIS--- ---OR SOME PRATTLING, GAGGLE OF HALF-GROWN FOWL!!?

STRAIGHTEN UP! LOOK LIKE WHAT YOU PRETEND TO BE !!!

THANK YOU--- THAT'S BETTER! WAR MAY BE HELL!---BUT ONLY WHEN FOUGHT BY A SLOPPY MILITARY!

W-WE'RE N-NOT YOUR ROBOTS---

23

DON'T LET YOUR COURAGE AND LOYALTY TO NEW GENESIS ***BLIND*** YOU TO RESPECT FOR A DANGEROUS ENEMY! THIS IS NO LACKEY YOU'RE ADDRESSING!!

ON APOKOLIPS, MY RANK IS ***EQUAL*** TO HIGHFATHER!! MINIONS OF ***GREAT*** MIGHT ***QUAKE*** AT INCURRING MY DISFAVOR!!

WE ***HATE*** YOU, GREAT DARKSEID! BUT WE'VE ***NEVER*** UNDER-RATED YOUR POWER!

I'LL TAKE THAT WITLESS AND PITIFUL DISPLAY OF GRUDGING ADMIRATION TO MY HEART! ***BABOON!*** ***CLOWN!*** YOU TALK ONLY WHEN A SUPERIOR ***GIVES*** YOU PERMISSION!

Y-YES, SIR! I-I MEAN--- I---

OOOMPH!

LEARN ***DISCIPLINE,*** BIG BEAR!! ---AND YOU'LL LEARN THE WAYS OF YOUR--- ***ENEMY!***

MOONRIDER HAS BEEN WATCHING SILENTLY! ---WATCHING DARKSEID---AND LISTENING TO HIS ***LAST*** WORD!! THEN—

DARKSEID! YOU DEMON-! ***YOU'VE TRICKED US!!***

YES, I SUPPOSE I HAVE!

THERE'S ***STILL*** TIME TO REPAY YOU! ---STILL TIME TO UNLEASH MY POWER!

IT'S TOO ***LATE,*** MOONRIDER-!! I'M BEYOND YOUR ***MEGATON TOUCH!!***

EVEN AS FISSION ROARS FROM MARK'S FINGERS IN A MIGHTY BLAST, DARKSEID STANDS UNHARMED!!

THE MEGATON BLAST--- *IT PASSED RIGHT THROUGH HIM!*

PHANTOM FIRE *CAN'T* HARM DARKSEID!

YOU'RE *FADING*, MARK MOONRIDER! YOU AND YOUR LITTLE UNIT!--- FADING LIKE *GHOSTS!!*

MARK! IT'S *TRUE!* W-WE'RE *"PHASING OUT!"*

TH-THEY'RE *GONE* SIRE! I-I HATE TO SAY THIS--BUT THOSE BRATS MANAGED TO GET TOO CLOSE TO US! THEY COULD HAVE---

I KNOW, DESAAD! WE WERE IN *DANGER!* THUS, MY LITTLE ACT!--- MY LITTLE *MOCK* TROOP INSPECTION--

MOONRIDER REALIZED IT TOO LATE! --- BUT I HAD ALREADY SATURATED HIS UNIT WITH *INVISIBLE* OMEGA RAYS---AND THEY BEGAN TO VANISH!-EVEN AS THIS STONE!

BUT SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT YOU'VE *SPARED* THE FOREVER PEOPLE *AGAIN!*

GREATNESS DOES *NOT* COME FROM KILLING THE YOUNG! I'M WILLING TO *WAIT* UNTIL THEY GROW!! *NOW, WE DEPART!*

THERE IS A GREAT SURGE OF POWER FROM WITHIN DARKSEID! THE SOMBER CAVES ROCK FROM ITS BURSTING ECHOES! THEN, DARKSEID AND HIS MINIONS ARE *GONE!*

POW!

25

AND ALWAYS, WHEN THE THUNDER DIES--- THE WAKE OF THE GODS IS STREWN WITH THE DEBRIS OF CELESTIAL SCHEMING!!

WELL, THAT CLOSES THE CASE OF *BILLION-DOLLAR BATES!!*

BUT *NEW DOORS* HAVE OPENED IN THIS INVESTIGATION! *WHO* WERE THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS IN THAT LITTLE DRAMA?

BIG FISH, I SUSPECT! THIS CROWN THAT BATES WORE HAS BEEN FASHIONED FOR SOME VERY *UNIQUE* HEADS!!

THE CROWN OF POWER! BATES WORE IT FOR ONLY AN INSTANT!

WHAT WOULD *WE* HAVE DONE WITH IT?

IT'S ALL TOO FRIGHTENING! WE'RE *LUCKY* TO BE ALIVE!

THAT GOES FOR *ALL* OF MANKIND! LET'S GO! WE HAVE A CALL TO MAKE-- TO *WASHINGTON* !!

MEANWHILE, BEYOND THE ESTATES---

WE'VE MATERIAL-IZED ON THE SUPER-CYCLE!

TRICKY DARKSEID! WE'LL MEET *AGAIN!*

WE COULD HAVE FARED WORSE! HE'S A *STRANGE* ENEMY!!

GRIP THE *ELECTRON ROAD!* INSTRUMENTS LEAD US WHERE-EVER WE'RE *NEEDED!*

THIS HAS BEEN A *STAND-OFF!* AND THAT'S BETTER THAN *DEFEAT!*

26

WHERE SUPER-CYCLE GOES---NOBODY KNOWS!!---THAT IS---NOT UNTIL IT LANDS!!

BUT IT'S BOUND TO BE A PLACE WHERE EERIE AND UNUSUAL THINGS ARE HAPPENING!!

THAT'S WHY THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE FOREVER PEOPLE IS A BLOCKBUSTER!!

• DON'T MISS •

THE MONSTER IN THE MORGUE!

DC THE FOREVER PEOPLE

SEE THE EERIE RETURN OF DEADMAN!! in

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

52 BIG pages DON'T TAKE LESS!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 9
JULY
30490

BIG BEAR

VYKIN THE BLACK

MARK MOONRIDER

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

SERIFAN

EXTRA! THE SANDMAN BATTLES "THE MAN WHO KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS!"

THIS IS THE NIGHT, OLD FRIEND-- WHEN I SHALL GIVE YOU-- LIFE!

LABORING IN *NAMELESS* PLACES EVERYWHERE ARE THE *OBSCURE* DREAMERS, THE *LONE WOLVES* WHO TAKE THE *SIMPLISTIC* ROAD TO FULFILLMENT! SOME SUCCEED AND GO DOWN IN HISTORY---OTHERS GENERATE NIGHTMARES THAT ALMOST DROWN HISTORY! IN EVERY AGE THEY'VE MADE MANKIND TREMBLE IN THE DARK! NOW MEET *"DOC" GIDEON*, WHO PRODUCES MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR, WITH HIS ---

MONSTER IN THE MORGUE!

KREEEK!

THIS IS THE NIGHT, OLD FRIEND, ---ON WHICH I SHALL GIVE YOU---*LIFE!*

A *BRIEF* HISTORY IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE HAS EARNED "DOC" GIDEON A JOB AS A CITY *MORGUE ATTENDANT*---AND IN THAT SILENT PLACE, AMONG THE UNBURIED DEAD, "DOC" GIDEON HAS HIDDEN A BODY *NEVER* SIRED BY LIVING MAN!

THERE ARE *FAINT* SIGNS OF BRAIN ACTIVITY! --- BUT I *CAN'T* BE CERTAIN ---

WELL, I'VE *FINALLY* SCRAPED UP THE EQUIPMENT TO ACHIEVE *REAL* RESULTS! THE ERA OF "FICTION FRANKENSTEINS" IS LONG GONE! WE'VE GOT THE TOOLS TO *DO* THE JOB, NOW!

BUT THE WORLD *MUST* BE SHOWN! --- BY MEN OF *PATIENCE! - TALENT!!*

THEY LITERALLY *THREW* ME OUT OF MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR MY *"ELECTRO-ORGANIC"* APPROACH TO FORENSIC MEDICINE! BUT --- *NOW!* ---

KA-SHAAAAM!!

MICRO-CHARGES··· AN AMMUNITION BAND OF ELECTRIC BULLETS, FIRED THROUGH EVERY CELL OF A HUMAN BODY!···A HUMAN BODY STRUCTURED FROM THE *UNCLAIMED* DEAD! CAN I MAKE IT *MOVE?*

GIVE ME A SIGN OF *HEARTBEAT!···REFLEX! ANYTHING!* I *KNOW* I'M RIGHT! I *KNOW* IT—!

NOTHING! THERE'S *NO* RESPONSE FROM ANY AREA OF THIS MASS OF TISSUE! IT JUST *ISN'T* POSSIBLE THAT I'VE OVERLOOKED A STEP—!

EXPERT SURGERY···TECHNICAL RESEARCH OF *UNSURPASSED* QUALITY—! AND YET··· I'VE *MISSED* THE MARK! IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING FAMOUS··· OR A *"LOSER!"*

I'VE FAILED! *FAILED!*

BUT "DOC" GIDEON IS *WRONG!* SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, HIS "ELECTRO-ORGANIC" SHOCK METHOD HAS OPENED THE "DOOR OF LIFE" JUST A *LITTLE···* AND ADMITTED *"HALF-LIFE!"*

BAH! SELF-PITY WON'T HELP, EITHER! I'LL *RESOLVE* THIS PROBLEM YET!!

I-I'M BACK!!! DEADMAN'S WORK IS NOT FINISHED!!

3

AND, *STRANGELY* ENOUGH---THROUGH THE *INTRICATE* MACHINATIONS OF THE FATES---
THIS EVENT BRINGS US TO THE---

FOREVER PEOPLE

WHO ARE SOON TO PURSUE A *MONSTER*---WITH ONE IN PURSUIT OF HIS *MURDERER!!*---

DEADMAN

WRITTEN, DRAWN, AND EDITED BY *JACK KIRBY*
LETTERED 'N' INKED BY *MIKE ROYER*
SYNOPSIS PREPARED BY—
MARK EVANIER
AND
STEVE SHERMAN —

THEY'VE TAKEN MY LIFE SAVINGS! STOP THEM! **STOP THEM!**

HEY!

WHAT!! THEY WOULD **RISK** PUNISHMENT FOR STEALING AN OLD MAGPIE'S NEST EGG?

WHO'S AN OLD MAGPIE, YOU GIANT "**HAIR BEAR!**" DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! I WORKED **HARD** FOR THAT MONEY!

DON'T YOU HAVE **MONITORS** WE CAN SUMMON?

MONITORS MAY BE TOO **LATE**, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! I'LL TRY---

YOU'LL TRY **WHAT!?**---

CONTROLLED SHOCK FROM MY **MEGATON TOUCH!!** ---JUST ENOUGH TO STOP THAT WEAPON!

AAAAA!!

POW!

SO--- YOU'VE GOT A GLOVE FULL OF GIMMICKS, **CLOWN!** BUT, I CAN STILL **BEAT** YOU TO THIS GUN!

DON'T PICK UP THAT WEAPON, FRIEND! I CAN **INCREASE** MY SHOCK-POWER!

HE *WON'T* HEED YOU, MOONRIDER! IT'S BEST TO *IMMOBILIZE* HIM!

A *COSMIC CARTRIDGE* WOULD BE BEST IN THIS SITUATION!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND-? UGH---

OF COURSE!

W-WHAT'S GONE *WRONG* I-I'M TOO *WEAK* TO STAND UP--- TO MOVE-!

YOU'VE DRAINED HIM OF ENERGY, SERIFAN! I DO HOPE IT WAS MERELY TO PACIFY HIM!

I CAN CONTROL MY POWERS WITH SKILL *EQUAL* TO YOURS, MARK! HE'LL REGAIN HIS ENERGY IN TIME!

MEANWHILE, *VYKIN THE BLACK* IS ALSO UNDER ATTACK!

LOOK OUT! YOU MAY *JAR* MOTHER BOX!!

I'LL REALLY JAR *YOU,* CHUM!

BUT--- TIME IS SHORT! SO I'LL USE THIS "*TIME-SAVER!*"

MAGNA-POWER IS *FASTER* THAN YOUR TRIGGER FINGER, FRIEND!

KLIK!

WHA-!!?

WHAM!!

TRY THE *REPELLI-FORCE EFFECT!*

6

BAM!!!

MAN! THIS IS TOO MUCH! I'M TAKIN' OFF!

YOU *CAN'T* LEAVE LIKE THIS, FRIEND! YOU'VE GOT THAT POOR FEMALE'S *MONEY* IN YOUR CAR!

RRRRHRR

VROOM!!

WHAT'S *WRONG?* THE CAR STARTS--- BUT IT *WON'T* MOVE!!

LOOK—IF YOU WANT THE MONEY *THAT* BAD--- WHY DON'T YOU *STAY!* SHE MAY GET TO LIKE YOU--- AND *GIVE* YOU SOME!!

RRREEOW!

RRROWWF

YEOOW!

OKAY, MUSCLES! THE ACT'S *OVER!* PUT DOWN THAT CAR!!

HEE HEE HEE! *STOP* THAT! IT *TICKLES!*

I SAID *PUT THE CAR DOWN!*

LOOK OUT!

7

BALAAM!

OH, MY! YOU *ALMOST* MADE ME DROP IT!

POOR FELLOW! HE'S *STUNNED!* AND HIS CAR IS A BIT *BENT* OUT OF SHAPE!

ACCORDING TO MY LIST, IT'S ALSO *STOLEN!*

TRIXIE MAGRUDER! ARE *YOU* MIXED UP IN ALL THIS NUTTY BUSINESS? IS THAT *YOUR* MONEY IN THE TIN BOX?

DON'T YOU TOUCH A HAIR ON THIS BIG GALOOT! HE *SAVED* MY MONEY FROM THAT- THAT *ROBBER* !!!

WELL--- I *DID* TRY TO RESOLVE A MOST *EMBARRASSING* SITUATION!

I THINK YOU MAY HAVE *STOPPED* A RASH OF BURGLARIES IN THIS PRECINCT!

A LATE ARRIVAL ON THE SCENE IS *"DOC" GIDEON!* UNLIKE THE VARIOUS ONLOOKERS, HIS INTEREST IN THE LITTLE STREET DRAMA IS MORE *PERSONAL!!*

HUH! SO MY LANDLADY'S SAVINGS HAVE CAUSED *ANOTHER* RUCKUS! WHY DOESN'T SHE PUT HER MONEY IN THE BANK LIKE OTHERS DO!?

BUT WHAT "DOC" GIDEON HAS CAUSED REMAINS UNSEEN--- BUT IT TRACKS HIM---USING HIM AS A FOCAL POINT FOR ITS FATE!

I HOPE THAT OLD KOOK *DOESN'T* SEE ME! I *DON'T* WANT TO BE DRAWN INTO THIS!

MY LIFE AS *BOSTON BRAND*... MY MISSION BEYOND THE GRAVE AS *DEADMAN!*... UNTIL THIS MAN ACTED, THEIR DESTINY WAS A *CLOSED* BOOK!

WELL, I MADE IT *WITHOUT* BECOMING IN-VOLVED! I'VE GOT A MORE MONUMENTAL PROBLEM!

THE *ELECTRIC ZONE*... WHERE LIFE IS STORED... WAITING TO BE *TRIGGERED!*

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND—!

IT'S THE MYSTICISM OF *RAMA KUSHNA* YOU'RE TAMPERING WITH, MY FRIEND! AND IT HAS MEANING— FOR ME!

EVERY FACT IN THESE BOOKS *SUPPORTS* MY THEORY! COULD I HAVE *MISSED* ONE?

CONFOUND IT! I *CAN'T* CONCENTRATE WITH ALL THAT *CACKLING* AND *GABBLE* COMING FROM MY LANDLADY'S ROOM!

SO! SHE'S TAKEN IN THAT HIPPIE GIRL AND HER FRIENDS! BIRDS OF A FEATHER *DO* FLOCK TOGETHER!

HAHA HAHAHAH! THAT WAS A GAS!

YOU KIDS SPEAK AND ACT SO CUTE AND FUNNY!---A *"SAVVY"* OLD EX-*CARNY* GAL LIKE TRIXIE MAGRUDER JUST *CAN'T* RESIST HELPIN' YOU OUT!

IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO RENT US ROOMS HERE! IT'S SUCH AN INTERESTING PLACE! -*MYSTIC* SYMBOLS! -*EXOTIC* DECOR...

---AND THIS CRYSTAL BALL!--HOW *LOVELY* IT IS!

9

SPEAKING OF DECOR, HONEY, YOU'RE A *DISASTER* IN THE GLAD-RAG DEPARTMENT! LET OLD TRIXIE LOAN YOU A GEM FROM HER *PRIZE* WARDROBE!

BUT THIS *SIMPLE* THING HAS ALWAYS SERVED ME WELL!

AFTER ALL, THE BODY IS MERELY A *THREE-DIMENSIONAL IDENTIFICATION VEHICLE!* IT'S OUR *"TOTAL"* SELVES THAT BEAUTIFY US!

HERE! PUT THIS ON YOUR TOTAL SELF!

OH, *MY!* —

THIS IS INDEED A *VIVID* AND *FLAMBOYANT* REPRESEN-TATIONAL FABRIC!

I SENSE THAT IT'S A REFLECTION OF GAY AND TUNE-FILLED TIMES!

THE *JAZZ-AGE,* HONEY!! TRIXIE WAS A *FLAPPER* WHO FLOORED THE MALES!

I HAD STYLE IN THOSE DAYS! OLD TRIXIE GREW UP AS QUEEN OF THE *CARNIVAL FORTUNE-TELLERS!* HOW I LOVED TO DANCE AND DATE!

YES, BUT I SOMEHOW FEEL THAT THIS MAY BE A BIT OBSOLETE NOW!

SUDDENLY---

YIPES! LOOK AT BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!

SKKASSSK!

I'LL SOON *CHANGE* THAT ATROCITY SHE'S WEARING!

10

WHAT *HAPPENED!?* YOU WERE WEARING MY DRESS! ---*WHERE IS IT?*

THIS IS IT--- ATOMICALLY *RE-SHIFTED!*

WELL! THAT'S *BETTER!*

ARE YOU KIDS TRYING TO RIB OLD TRIXIE? IS THIS SOME KIND OF GAG?

COSMIC CARTRIDGES ARE NO GAG, MISS TRIXIE!

SAY! I'VE HEARD OF WEIRD KIDS-! BUT, I MUST SAY, HERE AND NOW, THAT THIS GROUP IS "FAR-OUT!"

OF COURSE, THE CARTRIDGES ARE MOSTLY FUNCTIONAL! BUT THIS LITTLE-USED *BLUE* HAS A *STRANGE* LINK WITH THE INFINITE!

IT TRANSMITS SOMETHING I CAN ONLY TERM AS A *"LIFE-FORCE!"* SEE HOW IT ANIMATES THOSE DOLLS!

I'VE TRAPPED THIS FORCE! BUT I *HAVEN'T* SATISFACTORILY TRACED ITS *ORIGIN!*

THERE IS A WITNESS, PEERING FROM AN ADJOINING WINDOW, WHOSE INTEREST IS ALSO AROUSED!---"DOC" GIDEON!!!

INCREDIBLE! THE FORCE IN THAT CARTRIDGE IS PRECISELY WHAT'S LACKING IN MY EXPERIMENT!

I MUST HAVE IT!! FATE DIDN'T THROW THIS THING MY WAY JUST SO I CAN *LOOK* AT IT! "DOC" GIDEON'S A LOSER NO LONGER! TONIGHT MY SURGICAL SUBJECT SHALL--- *WALK!!*

MEANWHILE---

SO, THAT WAS ONCE MY DRESS! POOR TRIXIE AND *HER* TALENTS HAVE BEEN PUT TO SHAME!

DON'T SAY THAT, MA'AM! OUR METHODS MAY *VARY*---BUT OUR GOAL HAS BEEN *ACHIEVED!*

SHE'S A *GROOVE!*

AND SO ARE *YOU,* MISS TRIXIE! RENTING US THOSE ROOMS ON FAITH OF PAYMENT WAS GENEROUS INDEED! AND THE ANTIQUATED FURNISHINGS!--- A REAL *"DEPRESSION-NEW DEAL-ENVIRONMENTAL!" WOW!!*

WE'LL FIND THE *MEANS* TO PAY YOUR RENT AS *SOON* AS POSSIBLE!

IT'S *WONDERFUL* TO BE APPRECIATED! WE'LL HAVE SUCH GOOD TIMES!

I BELIEVE *I* WAS INVITED TO ONE OF YOUR EXCITING *SEANCES* TONIGHT, REMEMBER, TRIXIE?!

OH, IT'S *YOU,* "DOC!" *HUH!* I INVITED YOU, ALL RIGHT—BUT I *DIDN'T* EXPECT YOU TO SHOW! COME ON IN!

MEET *"DOC" GIDEON,* KIDS! HE'S AN ATTENDANT AT THE CITY *MORGUE!* WHILE HE SENDS OFF THE DEAD--- I BRING BACK THEIR *"SPIRITS!"*

HELLO! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE *ALL* INVITED TO TRIXIE'S SEANCE! SHE'S A *FINE* MEDIUM!

12

OH, WELL—! I SUPPOSE I *COULD* RUN THROUGH MY ROUTINE! THIS ROOM *MAY* BE FILLED WITH SPIRITS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE MEANS BY "SPIRITS," VYKIN? DO *EARTH-DEPARTED* LEAVE "RESIDUAL IMAGE-LAYERS?"

POSSIBLY! I'LL *DE-ACTIVATE* MY HELMET! ITS CIRCUITS COULD *DISTORT* THIS "SPIRIT" RECEPTION!

I SEE! THERE'S A *MENTA-MYSTIC* RITUAL INVOLVED! HOWEVER, I—

QUIET, BIG BEAR!

NOW, PLEASE PAY ATTENTION! I'M READY TO CONTACT THE BEYOND!

THE *BLUE CART-RIDGE!* AND IT'S SO CLOSE!

THE ROOM GROWS *DARK!*---*DARKER!* AND ONLY THE CRYSTAL BALL IS BRIGHT! MY THOUGHTS ARE ENTERING IT--- BECOMING MAGNIFIED --- BECOMING MESSAGES --- CALLING TO WANDERING SPIRITS!

NOW! I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE---*NOW!*

EVEN AS "DOC" GIDEON IGNORES THE SEANCE TO ATTAIN HIS OBJECTIVE, THERE'S A PRESENCE IN THE ROOM WHO IS VERY MUCH ATTUNED!!

IF THERE IS A SPIRIT IN THIS ROOM ---MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN!

I SHALL, TRIXIE! ---I SHALL!

13

HAHAHAH! BEAUTIFUL DREAMER HAS ADDED AN EERIE LIGHT SHOW ILLUSION WHICH HAS TAKEN OUR MEDIUM BY SURPRISE!!

OH! -ER- DON'T PANIC! I-I DIDN'T EXPECT TH-THIS KIND OF THING TO HAPPEN! I-I---

I DID IT! I'VE GOT THE CARTRIDGE!

Y'KNOW---I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SORT OF GIMMICKY CARNIVAL PRACTITIONER! BUT ONE NIGHT I SAW OUR STAR ACROBAT DIE--- A GUY NAMED BOSTON BRAND--- AND, EVER SINCE---I---

SOMETHING'S AFOOT! SHE ACTUALLY SENSES SOME SORT OF PRESENCE---

I'LL DO IT! FOR ONCE I'LL DO THIS WITH SINCERITY!!

BOSTON BRAND! IF YOUR SPIRIT IS IN THIS ROOM--- GIVE ME A SIGN!

WILL THIS DO, TRIXIE!?

14

AAAAA!! YOU'RE BACK! I-I KNOW YOUR VOICE-! IT'S REALLY YOU, BOSTON!

A DEADMAN IS BACK! WHY? WHY? I FOUND MY KILLER! HE WAS DESTROYED!

YET I'M BACK, TRIXIE! I ACHIEVED VENGEANCE! YET---HERE I AM--- ---AGAIN!

WHY? YOU SAW! YOU KNOW THE ANSWER!

HE WASN'T THE KILLER! THE HOOK WAS ON HIS LEFT HAND!! THE MAN WHO KILLED BOSTON BRAND HAD A HOOK ON HIS RIGHT HAND!

THE MAN WITH THE HOOK PAID FOR KILLING ME! WHY AM I HERE!?!

YOU WERE AT THE MURDER SCENE-? YOU SAW---?

YES! YES! I SAW! I SAW IT HAPPEN! AAAAAAAAA---

SHE'S FAINTED!

MISS MAGRUDER! MISS MAGRUDER!

POOR FEMALE! THE EXPERIENCE HAS SENT HER INTO SHOCK!!

15

THE APPARITION IS *GONE!* SOME PROCESS, UNKNOWN TO US, ALMOST GAVE IT *STARTLING* SOLIDITY!

THE EFFECT WAS MOST *TRAUMATIC* TO HER!

SHE SEEMS TO BE *STIRRING!* SOME REST SHOULD BRING HER BACK TO NORMALCY!

HOLD! WE'VE GOT ANOTHER PROBLEM! ONE OF MY COSMIC CARTRIDGES IS MISSING—! THE *BLUE* ONE!

---AND "DOC" GIDEON! *HE'S* MISSING, TOO!! I-I THINK WE'VE BEEN PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THE *WRONG* INCIDENT!!

AND HOW RIGHT SERIFAN IS! FOR "DOC" IS ALREADY AT THE CITY MORGUE!! ---OCCUPIED WITH THE BLUE CARTRIDGE!!

I'VE *TAPED* IT TO HIS FOREHEAD!! IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BRING *IMMEDIATE* RESULTS!

IT DOES-!

UGH-H!

WHAPP!

RRMMFF! MMFF!!

I'VE DONE IT! I'VE GIVEN IT--- *LIFE!*

16

THERE'S NO NAME FOR THE THING! IT'S NOT HUMAN IN THE ACCEPTED SENSE! BUT, IT IS HUGE AND STRONG AND RISES SHAKILY--- LIKE SOME GREAT WARY BEAST!

RRRRFFF! ARRAAG! ARRR!

EASY THERE! DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! I KNOW THAT EVERYTHING MUST SEEM STRANGE TO YOU!

AAAARRR!!!

GOOD LORD! I-I'VE GOT TO CALM HIM DOWN!

SMAAASSH!!

STOP! STOP!

RRRAARR!!!

NO! NO! DON'T BREAK OUT!

"DOC" GIDEON'S PLEAS ARE TOTALLY *LOST* IN THE ECHOES OF ANIMAL ROARS! ---AND HAMMER BLOWS WHICH *CRACK* OPEN THE BUILDING WALLS!!

CITY MORGUE

BA-A-A-M!

AND WHAT *EMERGES* INTO THE COOL NIGHT IS ENOUGH TO SEND BYSTANDERS FLEEING IN *TERROR!*

LOOK OUT! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

RRAARR!!

DON'T GO NEAR HIM! HE'S THE REAL THING!

RRRRR—

SOMEBODY CALL THE POLICE!

NEARBY THEATRES OFFER HORROR FANTASIES THAT *CANNOT* MATCH THE INCREDIBLE CREATURE NOW *AT LARGE* IN THE CITY STREETS!

TONITE !! THE GHOULS!! ALSO-CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN!

DOUBLE HORROR FEATURE!

18

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, A GREAT BURST OF COSMIC ENERGY FLARES INTO EXISTANCE!! AND··· IN ITS NUCLEUS—

WE'RE PHASING INTO THE CENTER OF THE CITY!!

MOTHER BOX HAS HOMED IN ON OUR QUARRY!

HE *CAN'T* BE FAR!

PING PING PING PING PING

THERE! SOME SORT OF DISTURBANCE AHEAD!

MOTHER BOX IS REACTING WITH *INCREASED* ACTIVITY!

WE MUST BE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

A *CINEMA HOUSE!* WHAT A FIND!!

PING PING PING

ADMISSION PRICE

LOOK! THEY'RE OFFERING PRICELESS HORROR CLASSICS! *MILESTONES* IN THE HISTORY OF EARTH FILM ART!!

NOW PLAYING PLUS MIDNITE SHOW

MEANWHILE—!

PING! PING! PING! PING!

HERE'S OUR TARGET! *HE'S* GOT OUR BLUE CARTRIDGE!

BUT HE'S *HARDLY* THE IMAGE OF "DOC" GIDEON! HE LOOKS LIKE A MUCH *LARGER* PROBLEM!

CAREFUL, VYKIN! SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT YOUR USE OF MAGNA-POWER MAY BE *LESS* THAN EFFECTIVE!

RRMMFF!

NO SOONER DOES VYKIN MAKE CONTACT---WHEN HE IS FLUNG BACK-!

WHA-!

WOMP!

MOONRIDER! I CAN'T MOVE! I'M HELD FAST TO THIS WALL!

AMAZING! THAT CREATURE HAS FED BACK VYKIN'S OWN REPELLI-FORCE AND MAGNETIZED HIM TO THAT WALL!

THEN IT'S TIME TO TRY THE MEGATON TOUCH!

NO, MARK! IF HE FEEDS BACK THAT KIND OF POWER--- THE RESULTS COULD BE DISASTROUS!

WE'LL SEE! STAY BACK! I'M GENERATING A SIZABLE JOLT!

FORGIVE ME!---BUT I MUST REGAIN THAT CARTRIDGE!

WAABOOM!

I-I *CAN'T* BELIEVE IT! HE'S *STILL* ON HIS FEET!

AAAARR!

UGH! HE'S GOT ME!

LIKE A *CURIOUS* ANIMAL, THE CREATURE DRAWS MOONRIDER CLOSE FOR INSPECTION!

RRMMFF! MUUFFF!!!

THERE'S A SMALL *LUMP* UNDER THAT COVERING ABOUT HIS FOREHEAD! THE BLUE CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN *TAPED* TO HIS SKULL!

BUT BEFORE MARK CAN ACT TO *RECOVER* THE CARTRIDGE-!

BARROOOM!

ONLY SERIFAN'S *QUICK* USE OF AN *ANTI-GRAVITY* CARTRIDGE SAVES MOONRIDER FROM BEING FLUNG TO HIS DOOM BY HIS OWN MEGATON POWER *STORED* BY THE CREATURE!

I'VE *STOPPED* YOUR MOMENTUM, MARK! ARE YOU *HURT*?

21

I'LL BE FINE, SERIFAN! AS SOON AS I'M ATOMICALLY *RESTRUCTURED!*

I *KNEW* YOU'D DO IT, FRIENDS! SERIFAN HAS HIS COSMIC CARTRIDGE AND ALL IS *WELL!*

WRONG ON *BOTH* COUNTS, BIG BEAR! *WHERE* HAVE YOU BEEN?

ALMOST AT A MOVIE, SERIFAN! HOWEVER, I SEE THAT I'M *SORELY* NEEDED HERE!!

IT'S A *SHAMBLES,* BIG BEAR! I BELIEVE THAT "DOC" GIDEON HAS USED SERIFAN'S COSMIC CARTRIDGE TO *ACTIVATE* AN EXTRAORDINARY MENACE!

DON'T BOTHER HELPING *ME!* MOTHER BOX WILL NULLIFY THIS MAGNETIC TRAP!

VYKIN! FORGIVE US---!

PING PING PING

THAT CREATURE!--- IT'S *GONE!* IT'S DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT!

LET'S *NOT* WASTE TIME ON TALK! WE MUST *FIND* IT!

BACK AT THE CITY MORGUE, "DOC" GIDEON'S AMBITIONS HAVE COME TO A *SORRY* IMPASSE!!

OKAY! TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! WE'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM!

HE'S *LUCKY* TO BE ALIVE! HIS ASSAILANT WAS *EXTREMELY* POWERFUL!!

IT'S A *CREEPY* SCENE, ED! DO YOU SUPPOSE-?

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, TOM! IT'S *POSSIBLE* THAT A STIFF *REVIVED,* HERE, AND WRECKED THE PLACE IN PANIC!

22

THIS *MIGHT* TIE IN WITH THAT REPORTED STREET DISTURBANCE! WE'RE *TRYING* TO GET A LINE ON IT NOW!

WOW!

HERE'S THE RUN-DOWN! *FIVE* SUSPECTS!---*ALL* WEIRDOS!---*ALL* AT LARGE! I THINK WE'VE GOT A NEW CASE FOR *"TERRIBLE TURPIN!"*

THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE SUSPECTS HAS FOUND REFUGE IN THE *VAST* UNDERGROUND NETWORK OF PIPE-LINES SUPPLYING GAS TO THE CITY—

RRRRRR!

THE CREATURE RESPONDS ONLY TO *RUDIMENTARY* FEELINGS! IT SMASHES EVERYTHING WHICH BLOCKS ITS PATH! CABLES *RIP!* PIPES *CRACK!* ---AND GAS BEGINS TO *ESCAPE!*

BUT THERE IS SOMEONE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR---*DEADMAN!*

I'VE GOT TO *STOP* HIM! -OR HE'LL BLOW UP THIS *ENTIRE* DISTRICT!

AS DEADMAN ATTEMPTS TO "TAKE OVER" THE BODY OF GIDEON'S MONSTER—!!!

AAAAA!!

CRAACK!

FOR THE *SECOND* TIME, DEADMAN MEETS INCREDIBLE RESISTANCE AGAINST WHAT, FOR *HIM*, HAS BEEN A SIMPLE TASK! GREAT FLASHES OF ENERGY ENVELOP HIM AS THE THING TURNS TO ATTACK HIM!

SSSKZZSSAASK!

23

RRRR!!

GREAT DAY! THE *CLOSER* I GET TO IT— THE *GREATER* ITS RESISTANCE GROWS!

BUT I *CAN'T* GIVE UP! IT'S ATTACKING THE *MASTER* GAS-LINE! IF THAT BLOWS, IT MEANS DEATH OR INJURY TO THE RESIDENTS OF THIS *CROWDED* AREA!

RRIP!

HE'S TORN THE PIPE OPEN! —AND THE GAS IS RUSHING OUT! I'VE GOT TO TRY AGAIN! ---*NOW!*

RRRSSHH

AT THAT MOMENT, THE GAS IGNITES!--- AND THE ERUPTION THAT FOLLOWS BLASTS INTO THE STREETS ABOVE!!

WHOM!

IT'S A GAS MAIN EXPLOSION! IT COULD END UP BLOWING THE CITY APART!

LET'S GET SOME HELP—! QUICK!!

BUT THE DISASTER *NEVER* COMES! INSTEAD THE ENSUING BLASTS ARE *INSTANTANEOUSLY* AND *MYSTERIOUSLY* SNUFFED OUT!!

WH-WHAT *HAPPENED!?* THE FLAMES SUDDENLY DIED DOWN!

24

AND DOWN BELOW---

WHAT A MESS! WHO'D HAVE GUESSED THE THING WOULD TAKE A *DETOUR* INTO AN OPEN MAN-HOLE---TO DO *THIS*-!!

I'VE *CAPPED* THE LEAKING GAS-LINE WITH *SOLID STATE ENERGY!* THIS NIGHT'S BEEN A *BUSY* ONE FOR MY COSMIC CARTRIDGES!

AND *MOTHER BOX!* SHE TRACKED OUR QUARRY HERE!

AND HERE HE IS! IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE CITY FELL IN TO BURY HIM!

YOUR EFFORT IS *USELESS!* THIS BODY IS DONE FOR!!

I-IT *SPEAKS!*

YES! BUT ONLY AS A *PHANTOM*--- USING THE ONLY PART OF THIS BODY STILL CAPABLE OF FUNCTIONING! --- THE *VOCAL CORDS!*

HE'S *RIGHT!* NOT EVEN SERIFAN'S BLUE CARTRIDGE CAN MOVE LIMBS SO SEVERELY DAMAGED!

ONLY THE *MYSTIC* POWERS OF RAMA KUSHNA ENABLE ME TO COMMUNICATE THIS WAY!

---OR APPEAR AT SEANCES---TO *FRIGHTEN* POOR, SECOND-RATE MEDIUMS!?

OF COURSE! IT WAS *YOU* WHO SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM HER!

YOU'RE THE ONE IN SEARCH OF A *KILLER!*

25

---THE MAN WHO KILLED YOU!

I'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! I'VE *GOT TO!*

POOR *RESTLESS* SPIRIT! YOU *SHALL* FIND HIM! IT'S YOUR *DESTINY* TO FIND HIM! *NOW---RISE FROM THIS BODY!*

DEADMAN OBEYS--- HE *LEAVES* THE SHATTERED BODY OF "DOC" GIDEON'S CREATURE!

THIS CARTRIDGE WILL COMPACT THE FEW ATOMS THAT *STILL* CLING TO YOU!

FOR A FLEETING MOMENT--- YOU WILL FEEL *REALITY!* WE SHALL SEE YOU AS YOU *ARE!*

THE NAME IS--- *DEADMAN!*

WE ARE *FRIENDS!* ---READY TO *SERVE* YOU!

YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH *UNIQUE* POWERS! I NEED THE ABILITY TO FUNCTION ---BEYOND THE CONTEXT OF *MYSTIC* FORM!

SAY NO MORE, DEADMAN! YOU *SHALL* HAVE A BODY! YOU SHALL BECOME A BEING OF *NEW GENESIS!*

---AND THE BLUE CARTRIDGE, *STILL* TAPED TO THE CREATURE, WE GIVE TO *YOU!* IT WILL BE THE HEART AND MOTION OF YOUR *NEW* FORM!

AND WITH ITS *HELP,* WE'RE CERTAIN THAT YOU'LL TRACK DOWN YOUR *MURDERER!*

2 BIG THINGS TO COME!

DEADMAN WILL HAVE HIS NEW BODY! BUT HIS FIRST LEAD TO HIS KILLER WILL ASTOUND BOTH YOU AND HIS FRIENDS-!

DON'T MISS- **THE SCAVENGERS!**

ALSO *AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DIABOLICAL NEW MACHINATION FROM THE KIRBY "SCREAM-MACHINE!" **LOOK FOR IT!**---ESPECIALLY IN THE DARK OF THE MOON!*

THE FOREVER DC PEOPLE

FIRST IN COMICS
BEST IN COMICS

A NEW LIFE FOR DEADMAN--HIJACKED BY THE

SCAVENGERS!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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DEADMAN--LOOK OUT FOR--!

AMONG THEIR STRANGE EXPERIENCES ON THE PLANET EARTH, FOUR YOUNG *ADVENTURERS* FROM *NEW GENESIS* HAVE STUMBLED INTO THE MOST *BIZARRE* INVOLVEMENT YET! FATE HAS PUT A RESTLESS *DEADMAN* IN THEIR PATH!! AND, IN ACCEPTING HIM, THEY'VE ALSO ACCEPTED HIS MISSION OF BRINGING HIS MURDERER TO JUSTICE! *WHO KILLED BOSTON BRAND?!?!?* THE ANSWER MAY NEVER COME---BECAUSE OF---

"THE SCAVENGERS"

THERE'S THE LITTLE ITEM I'VE BEEN PAID TO PICK UP! THE *POLLUTION-FREE ENGINE* SEEMS TO BE WORKING *WELL!*

DRIVER TO BASE! I'M BEING *SHADOWED* BY A LUNATIC, HANGING FROM A SUPERSONIC PURSUIT PLANE!

PERFECT DROP! RIGHT ON TARGET!

WHILE THESE MAGNETIC BOOTS ANCHOR ME TO THIS MOTORIZED COMET---

KLANK!

KLAAK!

---THIS ELECTRONIC GADGET WILL SEND OUT AN IMPULSE TO ACTIVATE THE DRIVER'S SAFETY EJECTION SEAT!

KLIK!

WHA-?

SPOW!

GOOD-BYE, SPEED-CREEP! I'LL TAKE OVER, NOW!

ONLY A FOOL WOULD RISK HIS NECK ON THIS KIND OF JOB! BUT ONLY A FOOL WOULD TURN DOWN THE MONEY PAID OUT BY "THE SCAVENGERS!"

HELMET MIKE ACTIVATED! THIS IS "OPERATOR SEVEN!" THE MISSION IS COMPLETED! I'VE GOT THE CAR AND ITS ENGINE!

I'M TAKING IT TO DESIGNATED AREA--- WHERE IT'LL BE STRIPPED AS INSTRUCTED!

AND ON THE *OTHER* END OF "OPERATOR SEVEN'S" LINE---

WELL DONE, "SEVEN!" YOU'LL BE *PAID* WHEN THE ENGINE IS CRATED AND SHIPPED TO *ME!*

I MUST SEE YOU, *DIRECTOR!*

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED MY *NEXT* ASSIGNMENT! THE PLAN IS TO *STEAL* THE PYRAMID OF GAZI! I-IT'S JUST TOO *FANTASTIC!!*

WHY? IT'S JUST A BIG *ARTIFACT,* THAT'S ALL! YOU'LL GET THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO DO THE JOB!

THIS IS A *SUPER-AGE*---OF *SUPER-TOOLS*---USED TO SERVE THE *SUPER-SELLER!* ---AND "THE SCAVENGERS" ARE A SUPER-FIRM, GEARED TO PEDDLE *SUPER-MERCHANDISE!*

I'VE GOT A BUYER WHO WANTS A *REAL* PYRAMID ON HIS VAST ESTATE!

---AND I'VE HIRED *YOU* TO *DELIVER* THE GOODS! NOW, GET GOING! I'M *BUSY!* THERE'S A CALL COMING IN ON THIS SATELLITE VISI-PHONE!

YES, DIRECTOR! I SHALL *CONTACT* YOU WHEN THE JOB IS COMPLETED!

WORLD-PHONE

AH! OPERATOR TWENTY-FOUR! HAVE YOU GOT A "RUN-DOWN" ON THE STRANGE HAPPENINGS IN METROPOLIS?

"WONDER-PEOPLE," IS THE WORD, DIRECTOR! THEY DO WONDERS!

JUST WATCH THIS FILM!

WAS I RIGHT ABOUT THE "HUSHED UP" DETAILS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF SUPER-BEINGS!

I SHOT THIS FROM HIDING! WHAT YOU SEE IS TAKING PLACE IN THE *BASEMENT* OF A BOARDING HOUSE!

THE *"FOLLOWER"* IS ALMOST READY, *SERIFAN!* IT WILL MAKE A FINE VEHICLE FOR OUR *FRIEND!*

D

3

THE "FOLLOWER" WORKS *SMOOTHLY*, INDEED, *MOONRIDER!* HE HAS STRENGTH AND *GOOD* RESPONSE!

USING THE BODY OF THE "FOLLOWER," OUR *FRIEND* WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE HIS DESTINED PURPOSE ON A *PHYSICAL* PLANE!

FIRST WE MUST GATHER OUR *GROUP* TOGETHER!

WELL, THAT'S IT, DIRECTOR! THIS "FOLLOWER" THING SHOULD BE *STUDIED!* THESE WONDER-KIDS BLABBED THAT IT CAN BE GROWN FROM ANYTHING *ORGANIC!* ---AND *RE-SHAPED* ATOMICALLY!

FASCINATING! FASCINATING!

WHAT INTERESTS ME MOST IS THE *IMAGE* OF THAT "FOLLOWER-THING!" --- IT LOOKS LIKE AN ACROBAT IN COSTUME, NAMED *BOSTON BRAND!*

SURE! I *REMEMBER* NOW! THE GUY MADE THE HEADLINES BY GETTING HIMSELF *SHOT DEAD*, WHILE PERFORMING HIS ACT!

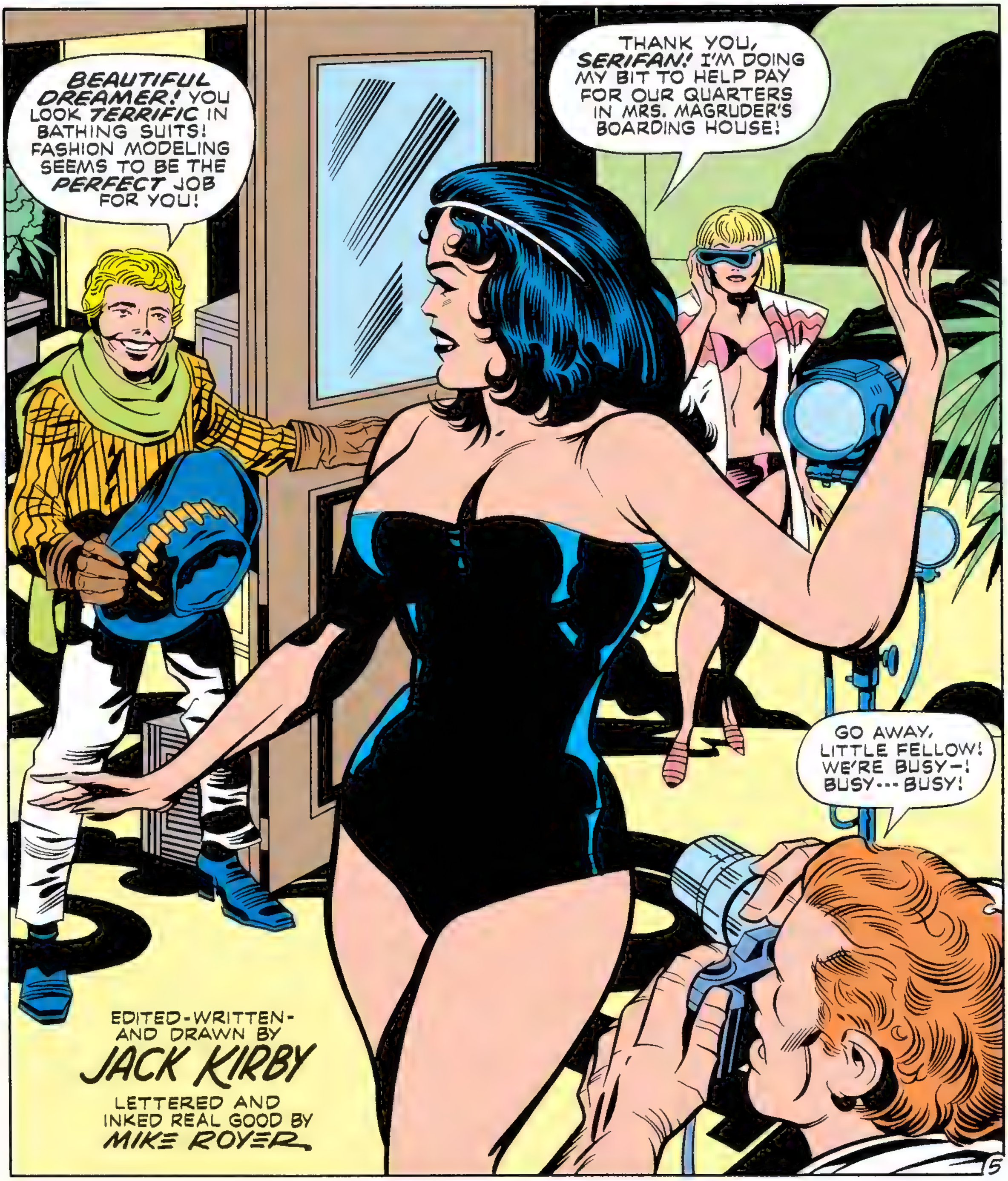
THAT'S RIGHT! *BOSTON BRAND IS A "DEADMAN!"* NOW... THIS "FOLLOWER" IS BUILT... "TO HOUSE A *FRIEND!*"

YOUR NEXT JOB IS TO STEAL THAT "FOLLOWER!"

4

AND SO WE HAVE THE DRIVING, INNOVATIVE FORCE OF *"THE SCAVENGERS"* ON A *COLLISION* COURSE WITH THE INEXPLICABLE OBJECTS! WHAT WILL HAPPEN IS A GRIPPING BATTLE BETWEEN *PIRACY* GROWN "BIG" AND TECHNICAL--- AND THE STRANGE PAWNS OF JUSTICE SEEKING ITS ETERNAL DUE! IT'S ANOTHER EXCITING AND NERVE-TESTING CHAPTER IN THE SAGA OF EARTH'S MOST *CHARMING* NEW IMMIGRANTS --- THE

FOREVER PEOPLE



MARK AND I HAVE COMPLETED THE "FOLLOWER!" NOW, MARK WANTS OUR GROUP TO GATHER!

HOW EXCITING!

SMILE, CHICK! *WAVE!* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE BEACH!

---ER, MISTER BRECKENRIDGE---IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO *TERMINATE* MY POSING AT THIS POINT? THERE'S A VERY *URGENT* MATTER---

NO! NO! NO! I'VE PAID YOUR AGENCY *HANDSOMELY* FOR YOUR TIME--- SO I CAN *MEET* THIS DEADLINE, CHICK!

VERY WELL, SIR! I ONLY THOUGHT YOU LOOKED TIRED, SIR! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD---

TO BE SURE, MY SWEET! THIS BUSINESS IS IN A *CONTINUAL* FRENZY!

HOW *SAD!* HOW *UNCOOL!*--- HOW YOU MUST SACRIFICE TO MEET YOUR OBLIGATIONS!

SHALL I *SMILE,* SIR? WILL *THIS* DO-?

OF COUR--- *W-W-W-WAAAAA--!*

MY *EYES! THEY'RE FLIPPING OUT!* THE CHICK IS RIGHT ABOUT MY WORKING TOO HARD! I'VE GOT TO GET A *CHECK-UP* RIGHT AWAY!

YOUR EMPLOYER SEEMS TO HAVE SEEN SOME *FRIGHTFUL* VISION, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER!

THE STRAIN OF WORK IS SAID TO CAUSE SUCH UN-NERVING ILLUSIONS!

SOON AFTER ---

IT *GRIEVED* ME TO SHOCK MISTER BRECKENRIDGE WITH AN INDUCED ILLUSION, BUT NOW I CAN HELP YOU ROUND UP THE OTHERS!

BEEP BEEP BEEP!

SERIFAN---! *LOOK!* ---IN THAT LARGE VEHICLE BEARING DOWN ON US!

YES! THERE'S A LARGE *FAMILIAR* FACE BEHIND ITS WIND-SHIELD!

FRIENDS! FRIENDS! I'VE FOUND A JOB! I'M PAID TO PILOT THIS VEHICLE!

IT SEEMS THAT MY EMPLOYER IS PARTIAL TO *COLORFUL CHARACTERS!*

---AND I EVIDENTLY QUALIFY! HAVE YOU TWO BEEN *SEEKING* ME??

THE "FOLLOWER" IS COMPLETED! MARK WANTS US ALL TO BE PRESENT FOR THE RITUAL!

WHEN *"DEADMAN"* ENTERS THE BODY WE'VE MADE FOR HIM, IT'LL BE LIKE A BIG BIRTHDAY PARTY! *SO BE THERE!*

WE'RE GOING TO FIND *VYKIN!*

I'LL MEET YOU AS SOON AS I RETURN THIS VEHICLE TO ITS GARAGE!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT MRS. MAGRUDER'S BOARDING HOUSE, THE STRANGE ACTIVITIES OF HER NEW TENANTS HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON HER PRIORITIES!

MARK MOONRIDER! WILL YOU *EVER* COME UP FROM THAT BASEMENT? YOUR FOOD'S GETTING COLD!

I'M COMING UP, MRS. MAGRUDER!

MOONRIDER, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE BUILT THAT STATUE OF THE LATE BOSTON BRAND! IT REALLY *UPSETS* ME!

THE REASON IS *VALID,* MRS. MAGRUDER! I-IT'S AN EXPERIMENT IN PARA-PSYCHOLOGY!

YEAH! THE SPIRITS ARE GETTING *RESTLESS!*

THE SPIRITS CAN BE *SEEN* AND *HEARD*--- IF YOU USE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT!

HMPH!

SO THE MOTHER BOX IS *ZEROED* IN ON ME, EH?

SHE COMPUTES YOUR FEW ATOMS BOTH *VISUALLY* AND *AUDIBLY!* YOU'RE VERY REAL TO *ME,* "DEADMAN!"

ARE YOU TALKING TO *YOURSELF* AGAIN? MARK, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE THE WEIRDEST KIDS I'VE EVER SEEN!

WHY, MA'AM? OUR INTERESTS MERELY PARALLEL YOURS! WE WERE *INSPIRED* BY YOUR SEANCE!

SEANCE WAS IN PREVIOUS ISSUE! -J.K.

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YOU *UNDERRATE* YOUR TALENT AS A MEDIUM! WHEN YOU CONTACTED THE SPIRIT OF BOSTON BRAND ---HE *REALLY* APPEARED!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! BUT IT *ACTUALLY* HAPPENED! WHEN HE SPOKE TO ME---I PASSED OUT IN SHOCK!

BUT NOT BEFORE YOU TOLD ME WHAT I *WANTED* TO KNOW!

IMAGINE! A SPIRIT IN SEARCH OF HIS MURDERER! ---A MAN WITH A HOOK ON HIS RIGHT ARM!

---AND IN THE BODY OF THE "FOLLOWER," I'LL TRACK HIM DOWN! --- AND BRING HIM TO *JUSTICE!*

AT THAT MOMENT, A MASKED, SILENT INTRUDER CAUTIOUSLY ENTERS THE HOUSE---

NO ONE IN SIGHT! ---*GOOD!*

WITH CAT-LIKE TREAD HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE BASEMENT---

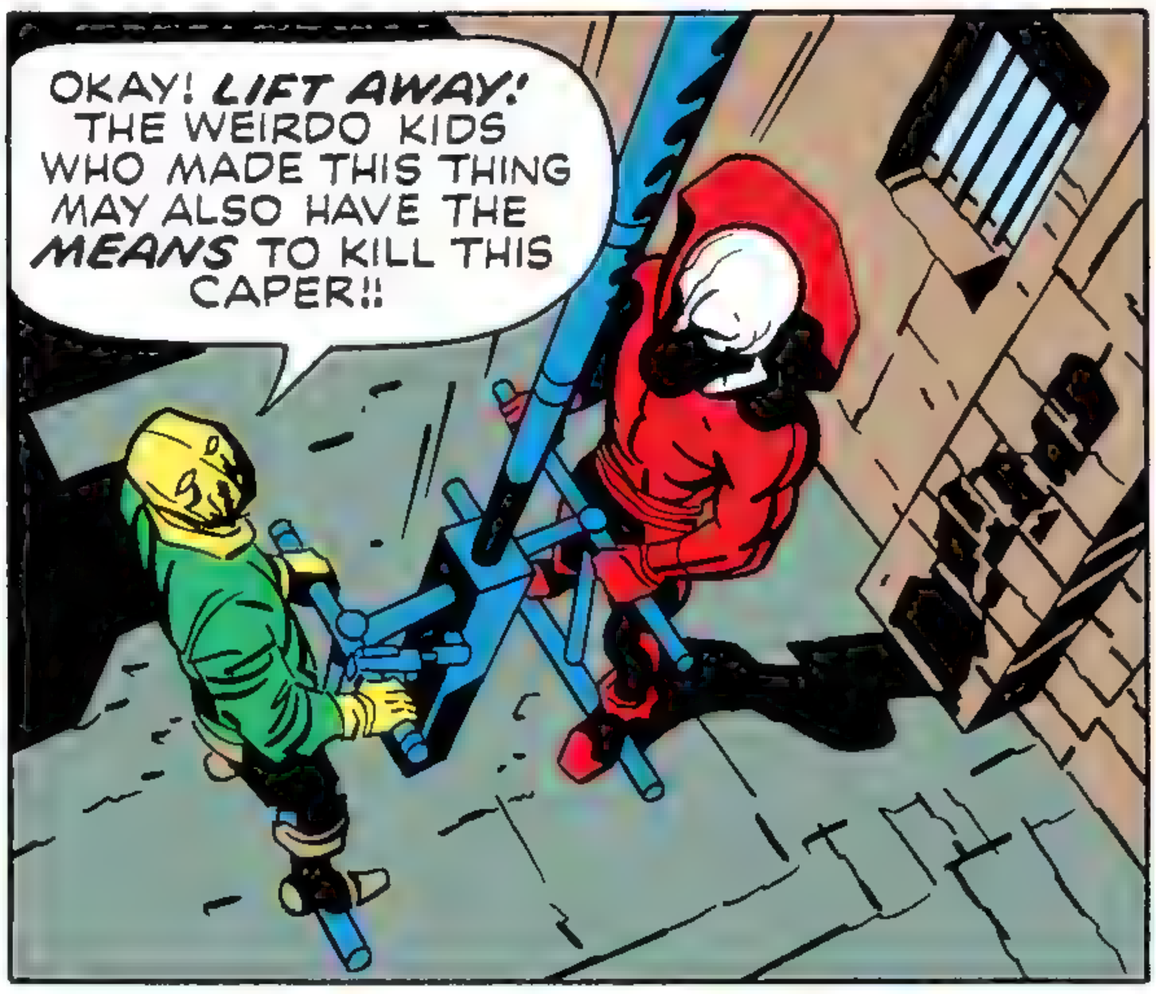
THERE'S THE "FOLLOWER"--- *UNGUARDED*--- AND RIPE FOR THE TAKING!

THE SCAVENGER TESTS HIS QUARRY! IT FOLLOWS HIS EVERY MOTION!

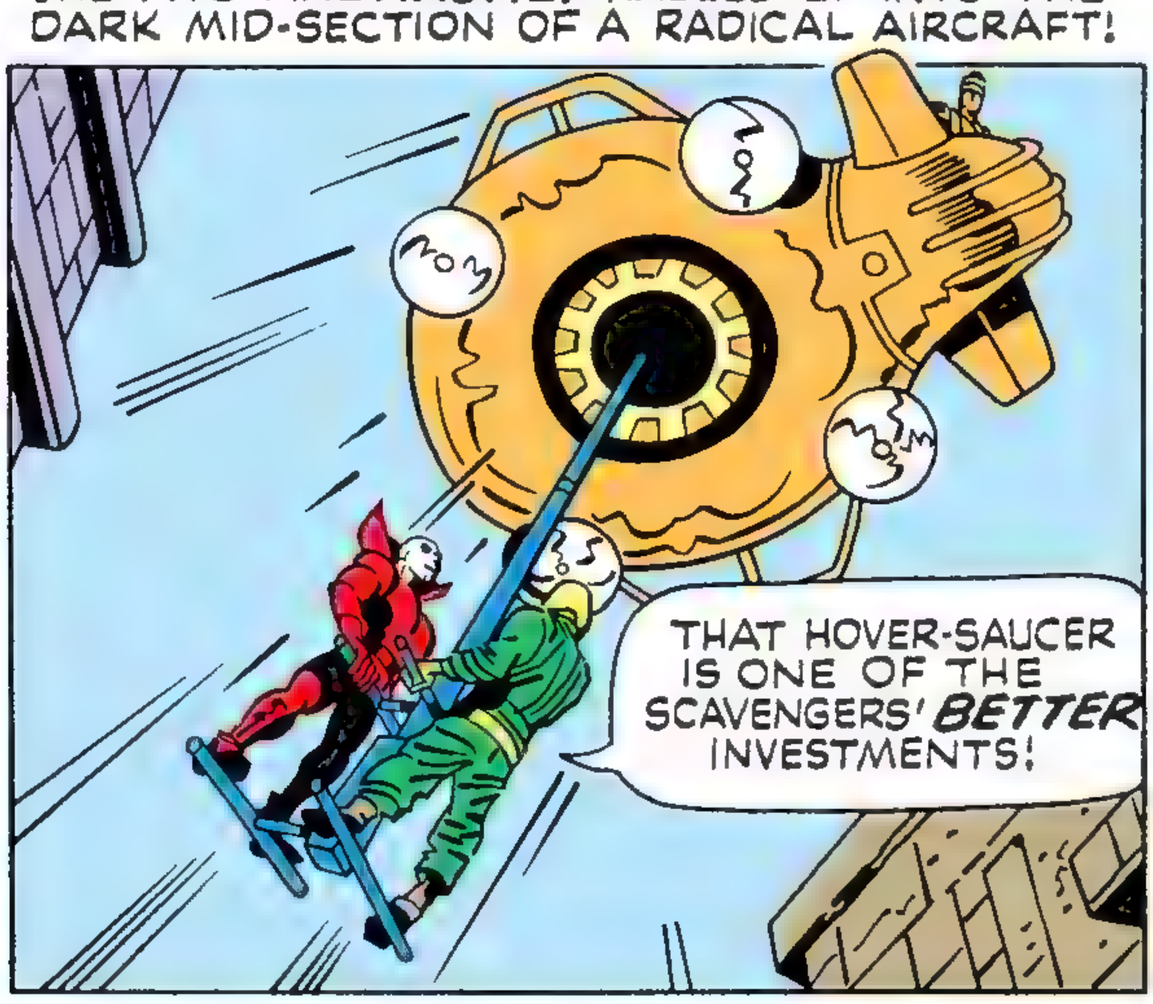
UNCANNY! IT'S LIKE A ZOMBIE--- WITH REFLEXES!!

THEN, STEALING OUT THROUGH THE BASEMENT WINDOW, THE SCAVENGER LOOKS BACK TO SEE THE "FOLLOWER" DOING THE ***SAME!***

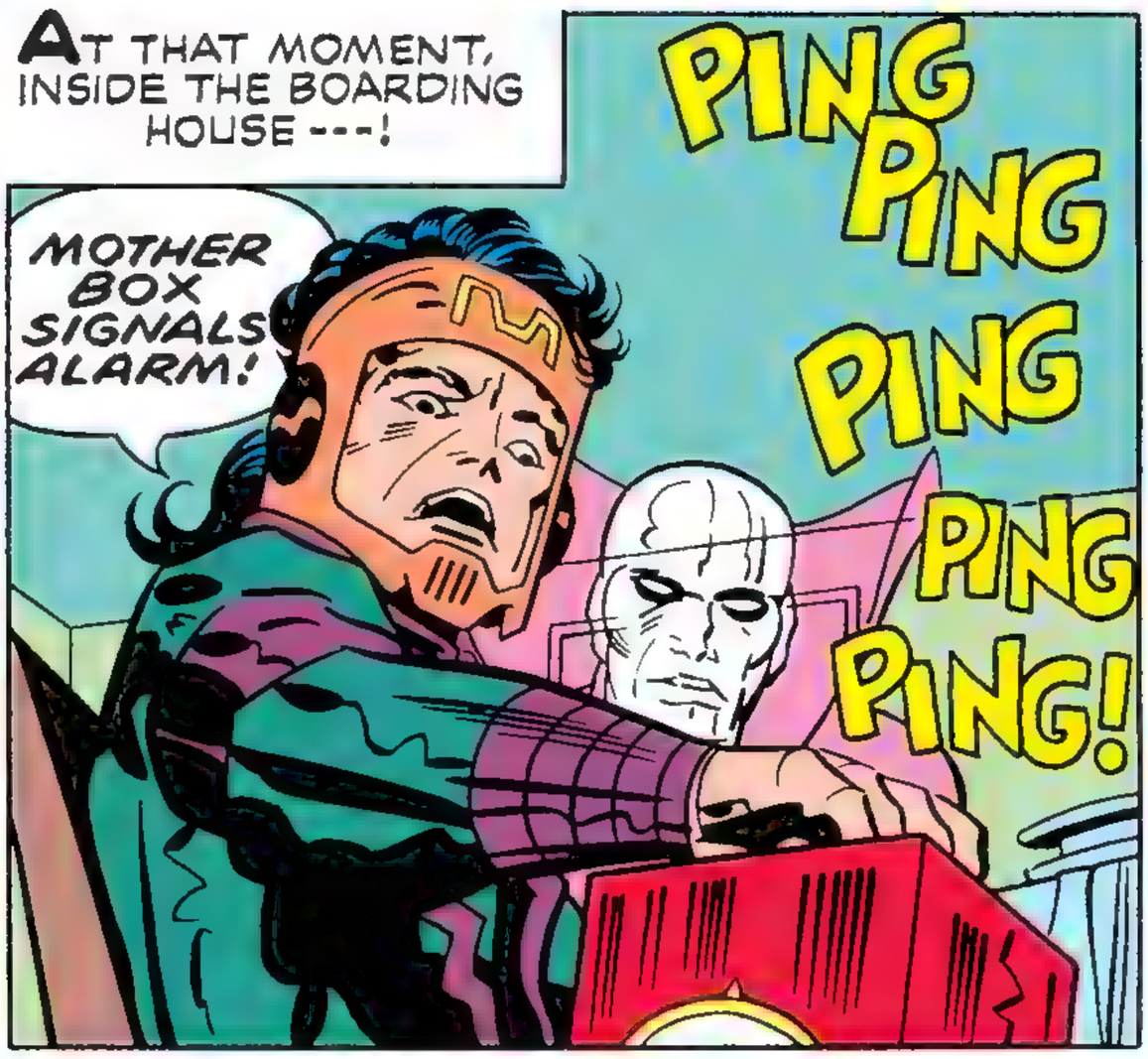
HIS CAPTIVE IS ***COOPERATIVE*** AND ***MEEK!*** HE WAITS AS HIS ABDUCTOR SIGNALS SKYWARD--- A STRANGE, GRIPPING DEVICE IS LOWERED FROM ABOVE---AND QUICKLY MOUNTED---



THE TWO ARE ***HASTILY*** HAULED UP INTO THE DARK MID-SECTION OF A RADICAL AIRCRAFT!



AT THAT MOMENT, INSIDE THE BOARDING HOUSE ---!



I-IT'S GONE! THE "FOLLOWER" IS GONE!

"SNATCHED" IS THE WORD! WE'VE BEEN VISITED BY *THIEVES!*

BUT IT *COULDN'T* BE TAKEN! THE "FOLLOWER" IS ACTIVE AND *STRONG!*

THE ANSWER IS *SIMPLE!* IT *"FOLLOWED"* THE THIEVES OUT OF HERE!

AT THAT MOMENT, THE *OTHER* FOREVER PEOPLE ARRIVE--- *TOO LATE!!*

W-WHAT'S *WRONG?* *WHERE'S* THE "FOLLOWER?"

I-IT'S *GONE!*

WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT--- IS *WHO* TOOK IT?--- AND *WHY!?*

THE ANSWER COULD BE MEANT FOR *DEADMAN!*

MEANWHILE, IN THE HIDDEN LAIR OF THE SCAVENGERS ---

WE'LL SOON LEARN ALL ABOUT THIS THING!

SEE HOW HE FOLLOWS OUR MAN'S MOTIONS!

THIS *STEEL* GLOVE WILL TEST HIS HIDE!

POW!

KRAK!

HOLD IT, FOLLOWER!

DID YOU SEE THAT, DIRECTOR? HE REACTS LIKE A *MIRROR-IMAGE!* ONLY--- WITH THE POWER TO FLOOR AN ELEPHANT!

ASTOUNDING! BUT---WHY WAS HE CAST IN BOSTON BRAND'S IMAGE? THAT QUESTION *BUGS* ME, MANAGER!

---BECAUSE, I'M SMART ENOUGH TO BOUNCE AROUND A *VARIETY* OF POSSIBLE ANSWERS!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF *THIS* ONE? IT'S CREEPY--- BUT, *LISTEN---!*

INVISIBLE TO THE ROOM'S OCCUPANTS, THE ASTRAL FORM OF *DEADMAN* SUDDENLY APPEARS!!

---I GET THE FEELING THAT THIS THING IS A--- *SHELL!* --- A SHELL--- WAITING FOR--- *"SOMETHING"* TO POSSESS IT!

AND THAT "SOMETHING" IS *HERE!*--- AND *READY* TO TAKE POSSESSION!

FOLLOWER--- IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE--- *WE ARE ONE!!*

MANAGER, I WANT THIS THING *DESTROYED!* USE THE "HAND-LASER" WE *HIJACKED* FROM THAT LAB LAST WEEK!

AS YOU SAY, DIRECTOR!

12

WHOF!

WHA-! THE "FOLLOWER" MOVED---! BY ITSELF!

LET'S JUST SAY, "IT STRUCK OUT ON ITS OWN!"

BAM!

AAAA!

BY SATAN, I-I WAS *RIGHT!* THE FOLLOWER'S BEEN *POSSESSED!*

YES! IT NOT ONLY WALKS NOW, ---BUT IT *TALKS! WHO* ARE YOU? *WHY* DID YOU STEAL THE "FOLLOWER?"

S-STAY BACK! *BACK!*

A HOOK! YOUR RIGHT HAND IS A HOOK!!

KLAK!

AS THE DIRECTOR PULLS A SWITCH, A HUGE WALL OF *STEEL-HARD* GLASS DESCENDS!

DEADMAN IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY THE SOUND OF CRUMBLING FROM AN OPPOSITE WALL!

BONK!

THIS WON'T STOP ME!

I'LL GET TO YOU!!

KERRRAK!!

WHAT'S ALL THAT *SHOUTING* ABOUT?

13

WELL! WELL! WELL! SO DEADMAN HAS FOUND AND "TAKEN OVER" THE FOLLOWER, HAS HE?

MORE THAN THAT! I'VE FOUND MY MURDERER! --- THE MAN WITH THE HOOK!!

IF HE'S BEHIND THAT GLASS WALL, IT'S EVIDENTLY RESISTANT TO GREAT PHYSICAL FORCE!

BUT THE PROPER COSMIC CARTRIDGE FROM MY HATBAND COULD SEAR AN OPENING FOR US!

--FOR ME!! I GO THROUGH FIRST!

BUT AS THE OPENING IS MADE---

UGH---

DEADMAN HAS BEEN HIT BY A "FROST BEAM."

---AND AT FULL POWER!

EARTHMEN ARE DEVELOPING WEAPONS THAT MAY ONE DAY RIVAL THE MIGHT OF THE GODS!!

SEE THE LOOK ON THAT FACE! DEADMAN'S VERY ATOMS HAVE BEEN LOCKED TO THAT BODY, SO HE CAN'T LEAVE IT!

14

THE SCAVENGERS STEAL THE WORLD'S *RAREST* ITEMS, FRIENDS! THIS "FREEZE-RIFLE" *ISN'T* THE ONLY ITEM WE STOCK HERE!

WE RECENTLY OBTAINED A MOST AMUSING FIND! ...*A FULLY AUTOMATED ROBOT CIRCUS!*

KLANKLANKLANKLANK!

...WITH A LIVELY COMPLEMENT OF *MECHAN-APES!*

MY STARS! THEY *DO* PLAY ROUGH!

RRRRR

POW!

LOOK OUT, SERIFAN!

CAREFUL, VYKIN! THERE'S STILL *ANOTHER!*

THE REMAINING METAL MONSTER *CRASHES* INTO VYKIN AND BEARS HIM DOWN!!

THOOMP

THIS SAVAGE THING IS PROGRAMMED FOR *HYPER-SPEED!* IT MEETS MY *EVERY* ATTEMPT TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE!

I COULD BE... *KILLED!!*

15

EVEN AS VYKIN'S ***MASTERFUL*** REFLEXES AND ***SUPERB*** STRENGTH GO INTO DESPERATE PLAY, THE PRESSURE OF BATTLE SUDDENLY ***FADES!***

SHADES OF APOKOLIPS, VYKIN! FOR ONE MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU WERE---

WELL, NOW HE ***ISN'T!*** NOT WHILE HIS LOYAL FRIEND IS ***BIG BEAR!***

WHOEVER BUILT THESE THINGS SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THEIR BEING USED WITH ***EVIL*** INTENT!

I'LL HAVE TO PUT THESE ***OUT OF ACTION,*** AS I DID ***MY*** ADVERSARY!

KLONNGG!!

OH,MY! THEY'RE ***SHATTERED*** BEYOND REPAIR! I MUST REMEMBER TO CONTROL MY ***OWN*** VIOLENT SOLUTIONS!

I'M SURE YOU'LL GET THE OPPORTUNITY SOON, BIG BEAR! WE HAVE YET TO SEE THE ***OTHER*** ACTS IN THIS ***DIABOLICAL*** CIRCUS!

16

IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE SCAVENGERS DEPOT—

INCREDIBLE, DIRECTOR---! THOSE KIDS ARE INCREDIBLE!

WE'LL SEE IF THEY CAN SURVIVE THE REST OF THE ACTS! NOW, ACTIVATE THE "GETAWAY ALARM!"

RRAAANNGGG!!

THIS MEAMS ALL PERSONNEL ARE TO ABANDON THE DEPOT!

WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE, WHEN THE LAW CLOSED IN!

WAIT! DON'T I LEAVE WITH YOU, DIRECTOR?

YOU KNOW THE RULES! THE MANAGER STAYS TO DE-STRUCT THE DEPOT WHEN IT'S CLEARED!

GOOD LUCK, MANAGER!

WHEN THE DEMOLITION JOB IS DONE, REPORT TO DEPOT FOUR! YOU'LL BE GIVEN NEW DUTIES THERE!!

THE SCAVENGERS ARE BIG! OUR DEPOTS ARE ESTABLISHED WORLD-WIDE! ---AND THIS INCIDENT INVOLVING AN ACTIVE "DEADMAN" MUST BE GIVEN TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

BOSTON BRAND MUST NEVER LEARN WHO SHOT HIM---AND WHY!

WHA-? TH-THERE'S SOMETHING AHEAD! ---ON THESE TRACKS! ---SOMETHING HORRIBLE!!

17

THE DIRECTOR HURLS HIMSELF FROM THE CAR IN *PANIC!*--- AS IT SPEEDS TOWARD THE OPEN, CAVERNOUS MOUTH OF A *GIANT* BEAST!

THAT THING! WHAT IS IT!!?

AAAAA!!

THEN---

OUR BIRD IS SHOCKED, BUT UNHURT!

MY ILLUSION SPARKED HIS *GREATEST* FEARS! I TRUST HE'S *SHAKEN* ENOUGH TO SURRENDER *WITHOUT* RESISTING!

W-WE'RE SURROUNDED!

MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS---

THE FOLLOWER'S BODY IS *REACTING* TO THIS INDUCTION CARTRIDGE! HE'S *THAWING* OUT!

UHHHH---

WELL, I SEEM TO HAVE *RESTORED* YOUR NORMAL BODY TEMPERATURE! HOW DO YOU FEEL-?

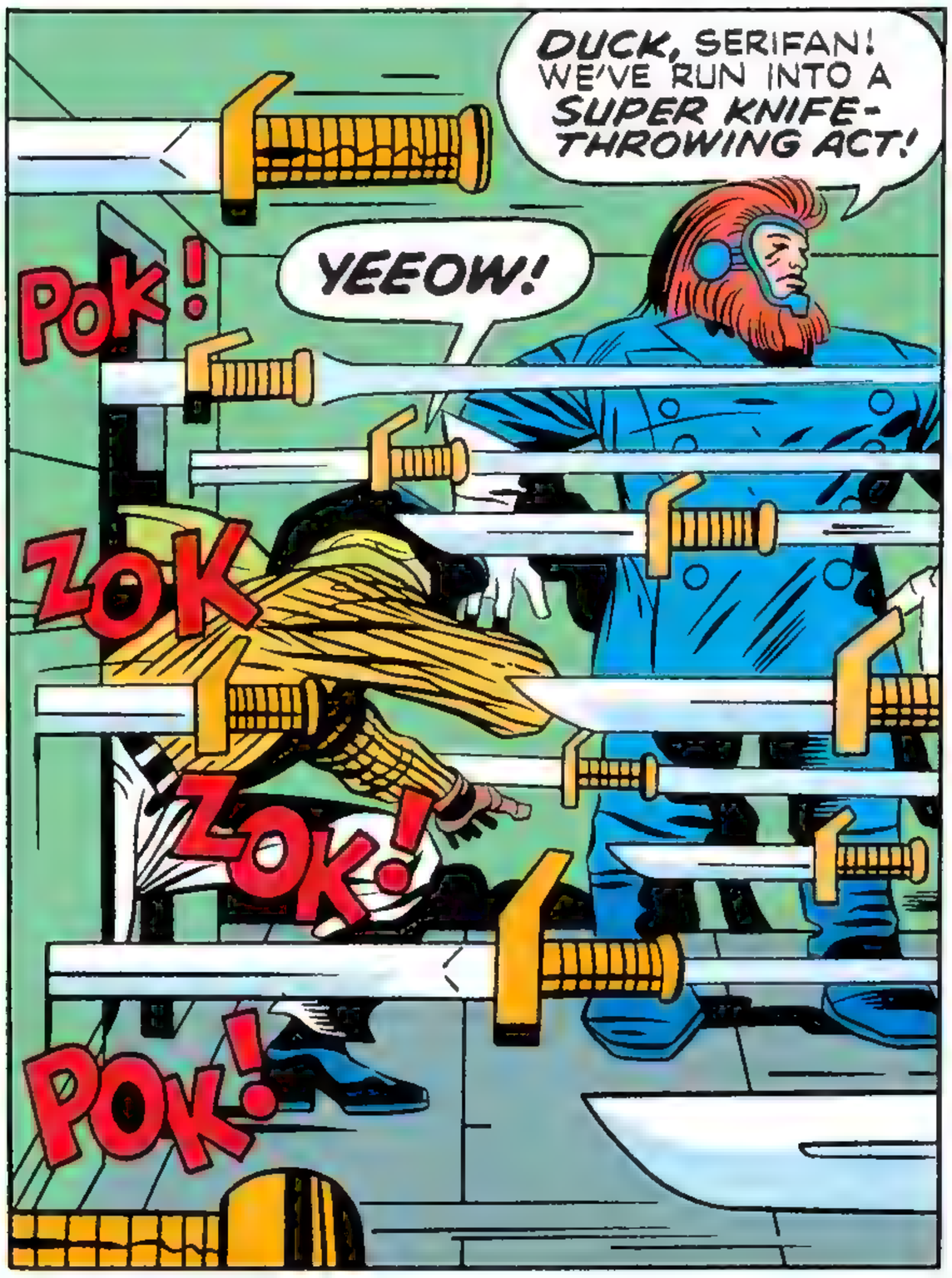
I-I FEEL *NOTHING!* I'M *NOT* THE FOLLOWER! ---JUST ITS *TENANT!*

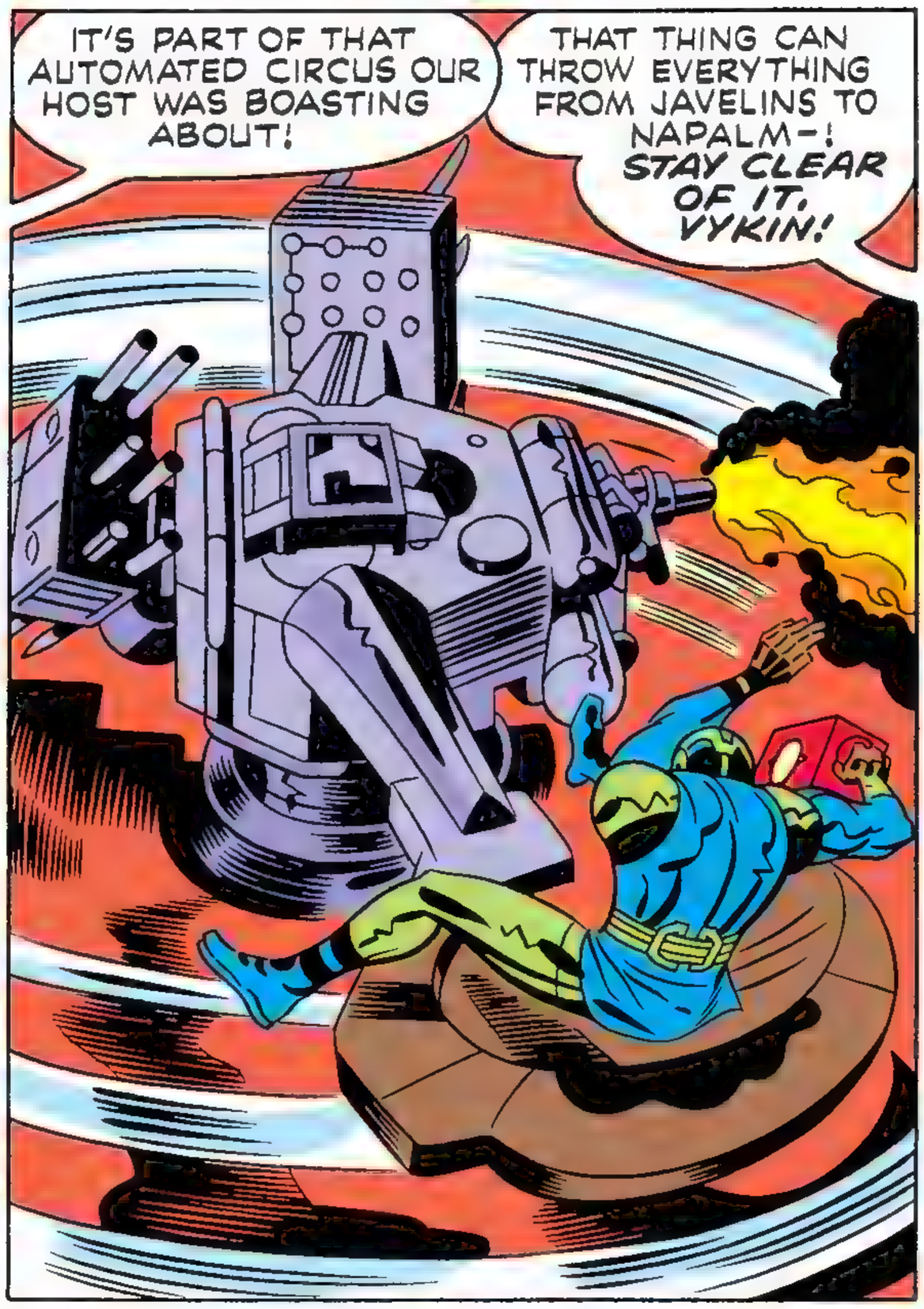
FANTASTIC! I'M A DEADMAN--- MOVING AN ORGANIC MACHINE THAT LOOKS LIKE ---*MYSELF!*

BIG BEAR AND VYKIN HAVE GONE INTO THE NEXT SECTION! AND I *DON'T* LIKE THE SOUNDS COMING OUT OF IT!

18

SERIFAN LUNGES INTO THE ADJOINING ROOM, ONLY TO CONFRONT A TERRIFYING SITUATION!





VYKIN'S POWERS MAKE HIM A MYSTIC NETWORK OF TECHNICAL *ATTUNEMENT!* IN ONE INSTANT ---HE *KNOWS* THE MACHINE!---AND *WHERE* IT CAN BE HALTED!

THE JAVELINS ARE *UPON* VYKIN-! JUST AS THE REVOLVING MACHINE SHRIEKS TO A *HALT!*

WOW, VYKIN! YOU BEAT THE "COOKIE-CUTTER" WITH *NO* TIME TO SPARE!

THE POINT IS THAT WE'RE *FREE* TO CONTINUE OUR INVESTIGATION!

THINK AGAIN, GENIUS!! IT SEEMS THIS MECHANICAL CIRCUS HAS A *RINGMASTER!*

THE SCAVENGERS ARE CLOSING DOWN THIS SHOW! I'M SURE YOU'LL GET A *BANG* OUT OF THE FINALE!

HE MAY BE "CORNY!" BUT HE INTENDS TO *BLOW US UP!!!*

HOLD EVERYTHING! THIS SHOW *WON'T* BLOW UNTIL THE TRAPEZE ACT IS INCLUDED!

KLIK

SNIKK

NO! NO!

YOU SEEM *RATTLED,* PAL!

DOES THE SIGHT OF A *DEADMAN* IN ACTION GIVE YOU GOOSE BUMPS?

KARA-SSHU-!

20

THIS SURE *BEATS* OPERATING IN SPIRIT FORM!

POW!

I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT MORE PEACEFUL AFTER I *RETURN* YOU TO THAT STATE!

BAM BAM BAM BAM

DON'T LOOK SURPRISED, YOU RAT! YOU *CAN'T* KILL A *DEAD-MAN!*

THE FOLLOWER'S BODY HAS THE *SELF-SEALING* FACULTY TO ABSORB AND *CLOSE* THESE NASTY BULLET-HOLES!

BUT---THIS CASE OF THE SCAVENGERS IS OPENING *WIDER!* *ONE OF YOU IS MY MURDERER!!*

SOON---

YOU'VE WON A VICTORY HERE---BUT IT'S A *SMALL* ONE! YOU SEE, THERE ARE *MORE* SCAVENGER DEPOTS---AND *MORE* MEN WITH HOOKS ON THEIR RIGHT HANDS!

THEN, IF YOU *DIDN'T* KILL BOSTON BRAND, DIRECTOR--- I'LL TRACK DOWN THE ONE WHO *DID!*

21

THE MEANING OF YOUR STRANGE ORGANIZATION WILL *EVENTUALLY* BE FOUND! --- NOW THAT *DEADMAN* IS ON YOUR TRAIL!

I'LL *STAY* WITH THESE HOODS UNTIL THE LAW GETS HERE!

I WANT TO *THANK* YOU FOR THIS PHYSICAL BODY! --- WITH WHICH I CAN GET THE JOB *DONE!*

AND *THIS* WILL HELP YOU REMAIN IN IT! --- THE *BLUE* CARTRIDGE!

IT'LL LINK YOUR SPIRIT ATOMS *PERMANENTLY* WITH THE FOLLOWER'S FORM! NOW, *FAREWELL, DEADMAN!*

OPEN THE DOORS, MOONRIDER! LET'S *LEAVE* THIS SECRET DEPOT!

IT WAS *NO* SECRET TO *MOTHER BOX!* SHE COMPUTED ITS LOCATION WITH EASE!

WHEN THE SCAVENGERS TOOK THE FOLLOWER, HE LEFT A TRAIL OF ATOMS BEHIND HIM---

ANTI-GRAVS, *ON!*

22

AND NOW-

A *NEW* KIRBY "BLOCKBUSTER" IS ON THE WAY!

HE'LL BE COMING FOR YOU SOON! LOOK FOR HIM! LOOK FOR... THE *DEMON!*

DC

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 11

NOV.

30490

INFINITY MAN RETURNS!

OF ALL THE CREATURES THAT PEOPLE THE UNIVERSE, NONE IS SO FEARED AS THE *RELENTLESS* PERSONALITY WHO MUST *FULFILL* WHAT HE WAS CREATED FOR··· AT ALL COSTS! GIVE SUCH A BEING THE POWER OF A GOD AND YOU'RE CONFRONTED WITH A GRAVITY OF DANGER UNIMAGINABLE ON THE HUMAN SCALE! FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF HIS PREY, THERE IS NONE SO *FEARSOME!* YOU SHALL LEARN WHY FROM THE ···

FOREVER PEOPLE

HIGH-FATHER SAVE US-! *WE'VE BEEN DISCOVERED BY THE PURSUER-!!!*

BETTER HAD WE STUMBLED ON THE *PLAGUE!* THIS MOMENT SHALL FIND US *SORELY* TRIED!

CRASH!

PRODUCED BY
JACK KIRBY
INKED BY
MIKE ROYER
RESEARCH BY
MARK EVANIER
STEVE SHERMAN

DEVILANCE THE PURSUER ---

-A PRODUCT OF WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE TRACKING PRINCIPLE WHEN IT'S BROUGHT TO ITS ULTIMATE EFFICIENCY! EVERY TRAIT OF THE PROFESSIONAL BOUNTY-HUNTER, PLUS THE CRUSHING WILL OF DARKSEID, HIMSELF, HAS BEEN BRED INTO THIS DENIZEN OF APOKOLIPS! HE MUST PURSUE, TRAP, AND DESTROY HIS PREY---OR DIE-!!

IN THE NAME OF DARKSEID, I CLAIM YOU AS PRISONERS! DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE! YOU WILL MERELY DELAY THE INEVITABLE!

OH, NO! HE'LL NEVER REST UNTIL WE SURRENDER!!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP DEVILANCE! --- AND THAT'S TO FINISH HIM OFF!

LOOK OUT, MOONRIDER! THAT DEMON LANCE CAN KILL IN MANY WAYS!

2

3

HAIRY FOOL! YOU DARE JOUST WITH DEVILANCE··· WHO HAS NEVER KNOWN DEFEAT? BACK OFF···! AND LIVE!

YOU CROW TOO SOON, HUNTER! IN FACT, A FIRST DEFEAT MIGHT MAKE YOU LESS ARROGANT!

YOU BOAST OUT OF FEAR, YOU BEWHISKERED BUFFOON! DON'T YOU KNOW I CAN MEET AND WIN ANY TEST OF STRENGTH?

MY AUXILIARY ATOMIC STRUCTURE CAN MAKE ME AS A MOUNTAIN! RESIST THAT, YOU TONGUE-FLAPPER!

BIG BEAR! WE MUST FIGHT HIM AS A UNIT!

THEN, THE INCREDIBLE HAPPENS! BIG BEAR, DESPITE HIS LEGENDARY SUPER-STRENGTH, IS LIFTED AND FLUNG ACROSS THE ROOM!!

EEEYAAAAA!

LET THIS LITTLE DEMONSTRATION SUFFICE! NOW··· SURRENDER!

VYKIN THE BLACK RUSHES INTO THE BATTLE, BUT IS MET WITH THE SKILLED FEROCITY OF DEVILANCE!

HUNTING DOG OF APOKOLIPS! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON··· OWW!

KRAK!

STAY BACK!

4

SUDDENLY, THERE ARE CITY POLICE AT THE DOOR!

OKAY! *PUT DOWN THAT BIG NEEDLE, SIR LANCELOT!*

YOU AND YOUR WEIRDO BOARDERS HAVE DONE IT *AGAIN, TRIXIE MAGRUDER!* IT'S ANOTHER *"FIRST"* IN HOUSE BRAWLS!

WELL, I NEVER...

I SAID "PUT DOWN THE SPEAR," MISTER! DON'T START ANY FURTHER TROUBLE!

THIS INTER-RUPTION IS ONLY TEM-PORARY! MY TASK SHALL BE DONE!

RRRRRR!

DEVILANCE PRESSES A STUD ON HIS *DEADLY* WEAPON! AND A STRANGE SOUND FILLS THE ROOM!

BEFORE ANY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN, THE LANCE LAUNCHES ITSELF OUT OF THE WINDOW, CARRY-ING ITS OWNER WITH IT!

MEDDLING EARTHMEN! MY INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO *AVOID* THEM!

I'VE HEARD OF WITCHES TAKING OFF ON BROOMSTICKS--- THIS THING BEATS IT ALL TO BLAZES!! *HALT! COME BACK!*

POW! POW! POW!

DEVILANCE IS A TINY DOT ABOVE THE CITY-SCAPE OF BUILDINGS BEFORE ANY OF THE SHOTS CAN REACH HIM! THEN ---

TRIXIE MAGRUDER, I WISH YOU'D START SCREENING YOUR TENANTS, SO THIS PRECINCT CAN QUIET DOWN! WHO *WAS* THAT!? ··· AND *WHAT* WAS HIS GRIPE?

I-I *CAN'T* IMAGINE, OFFICER BLAKE!

THOSE *KIDS'LL* TELL US!

YEAH! THOSE KIDS! --- BUT *WHERE* ARE THEY? THEY *COULDN'T* HAVE LEFT THIS ROOM WITHOUT OUR SEEING THEM!

MY···!

I THOUGHT I SAW A *FLASH* OF LIGHT! --- AND HEARD A SOFT *PINGING* SOUND···!

"PHASING OUT" IS AN UNFAMILIAR TERM TO THE POLICE, BUT THEY *DON'T* HAVE A "MOTHER BOX," EITHER···TO TRANSPORT THEM IN AN INSTANT, ACROSS A VAST AREA···TO AN ABANDONED MINE SHAFT IN WHICH THE FOREVER PEOPLE SUDDENLY APPEAR --- !

PING PING

PING PING PING!

WELL, WE'VE PUT LOTS OF DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND DEVILANCE! THIS MINE SHAFT SHOULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE *COVER!*

WISHFUL THINKING, VYKIN! DEVILANCE WILL FIND US SOON ENOUGH! BUT THIS'LL GIVE US *TIME* TO GET READY FOR HIM!

BIG BEAR IS *RIGHT!* LET'S LOOK AROUND THIS PLACE!

WHAT'S GOING TO *HAPPEN* TO US, MARK? DEVILANCE *WON'T* GIVE UP UNTIL WE'RE IMPRISONED ON APOKOLIPS ---OR *DEAD!*

WE'LL KEEP *CALM* AND PLAN A DEFENSE, BEAUTIFUL DREAMER! IT'S *ALL* WE CAN DO!

BUT DISTANCE, STRETCHED TO AN INCREDIBLE DEGREE, HOLDS YET *ANOTHER* PLAYER IN THIS DEADLY GAME! --- *INFINITY MAN!*

NO EXIT! NO WAY OUT!

FLUNG BY *DARKSEID'S* POWER INTO A CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE WHERE TIME, SPACE, AND MATTER CHANGE AND MERGE, INFINITY MAN RIDES THE CURRENTS OF DESPAIR---!

FOR A BEING SUCH AS MYSELF, NO MORE *CUNNING* PRISON WAS EVER DEVISED-!

A UNIVERSE TO ROAM AND EXPLORE, BUT *NEVER* TO LEAVE! --- BECAUSE OF THE *BARRIER!!*

AND THE BARRIER IS *EVERYWHERE!* ITS LIMITS UNFATHOMABLE! --- EACH ATTEMPT BY INFINITY MAN TO PENETRATE IT, RESULTS IN A VIOLENT, *INJURIOUS* FLARE-UP!

AAAA!

FFOOMM!

AND, AFTER *EACH* UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE, THERE IS THE *PLANET*---THE GREAT, GREEN, HAVEN-LIKE WORLD TO WHICH INFINITY MAN LIMPS TO NURSE HIS WOUNDS---

ONCE AGAIN I MUST RETURN TO MEND---! SOMEHOW, THE MERE SIGHT OF THIS WORLD FILLS ME WITH *NEW* HOPE!

MARSHALLING HIS *REMAINING* POWERS, INFINITY MAN STREAKS INTO THE WHIRLING AIR ENVELOPE OF THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE LIKE THE FLAMING METEORS WHICH ACCOMPANY HIS ARRIVAL!

INFINITY MAN LANDS AND RESTS IN THE SERENE SHADOWS OF ONE OF ADON'S PEACEFUL GLADES! THE WORLD IS NOT NEW GENESIS, BUT IT RIVALS IT IN BEAUTY---!

WHEN I'M STRONGER, I SHALL TRY TO ESCAPE *AGAIN!* THERE *MUST* BE A WAY OUT!

8

BUT WHAT OF ESCAPE FOR THE FOREVER PEOPLE-? ON EARTH, THE ONE WHO TRACKS THEM HAS ALREADY FOUND THEIR TRAIL!

THE LANCE *REACTS!* THEY'RE QUITE *CLOSE!*

ZZZZZZZZZ

THE HABITS OF *ALL* QUARRY RUN IN ONE PATTERN--- THEY HARBOR ILLUSIONS THAT FLIGHT AND COVER CAN *ELUDE* THE TECHNIC CIRCUITS BUILT INTO THIS LANCE---!

ZZ ZZZZZZ

IT'S *DEVILANCE!* HE'S TRACKED US DOWN!

LET'S *NOT* STAND HERE! HE'S GOING TO *BLAST* HIS WAY IN!

THE BLAST COMES! AN ENERGY DISCHARGE FROM THE LANCE SENDS A *BOLT* INTO THE MINE SHAFT!

THAT DEVILANCE CERTAINLY SUBSCRIBES TO THE *DIRECT* APPROACH!

BACK! BACK!

BOOM!

CRACK!

THEN---

AH! THE LEADER OF THE QUAIL! SUMMON THE OTHER BIRDS!---YIELD! ---IF YOU WANT TO *LIVE*-!

NOT UNTIL I'VE TRIED MY *MEGATON TOUCH,* DEVILANCE!

WHAM

TOO *BAD,* MOON-RIDER! YOU'VE USED UP YOUR *ONE* TRY!

YOU MAY MAKE A SECOND TRY---BUT YOU'LL *NEVER* COMPLETE IT! *DIE,* MOONRIDER!

I'M *READY* FOR YOU, DEVILANCE!

SUDDENLY, THE GROUND BENEATH DEVILANCE GROWS SOFT!---GIVES WAY---!

MOLTEN LAVA! I'M SINKING INTO IT-!

MY MEGATON TOUCH HAS *OTHER* USES, DEVILANCE!

BUT I *DIDN'T* SEE IT! IT *WASN'T* THERE-!

YES IT WAS, DEVILANCE! THE SOLID GROUND YOU WALKED ON WAS AN *ILLUSION!*

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER CAN CREATE VERY *EFFECTIVE* ILLUSIONS! THIS TIME *YOU'RE* TRAPPED! THE LAVA IS COOLING---AND HARDENING FAST!

OH, MARK! WON'T THE HEAT OF THE LAVA *DESTROY* HIM?

NO! DEVILANCE CAN ADJUST TO ANY TEMPERATURE! BUT THE HARDENING ROCK WILL *HOLD* HIM FAST UNTIL WE "PHASE OUT" OF HERE!

LET'S MOVE *QUICKLY,* FRIENDS! MOTHER BOX IS ALREADY CHARTING A *NEW* DESTINATION!

PING-PING

ONCE AGAIN, THE FOREVER PEOPLE VANISH IN A BURST OF BRILLIANT, WHITE ENERGY!

WHERE TO NOW, VYKIN? I HOPE IT'S A SAFE PLACE!

WE MUST *TRUST* IN MOTHER BOX! SHE *KNOWS* OUR NEEDS!

SPOFF!

BUT NO SOONER ARE THEY GONE, THAN A GREAT *CRACKLING* SOUND FILLS THE TUNNEL, AND A LANCE BREAKS THROUGH THE ROCK!··· FOLLOWED BY A HAND···!

THEY'LL PAY *DEARLY* FOR THIS!

KRAK!

THEN DEVILANCE EMERGES! HE'S INCREASED HIS OWN ATOMIC DENSITY AND THRUSTS HIS WAY OUT OF HIS ROCKY PRISON!

I'LL GIVE NO QUARTER WHEN I CONFRONT THEM NEXT! MY MASTER, DARKSEID, WILL HAVE TO CONTENT HIMSELF WITH *BODIES* INSTEAD OF PRISONERS!

THE *RESIDUE* OF THEIR DIRECTIONAL SIGNALS STILL LINGERS! THE LANCE CIRCUITS HAVE *PICKED* THEM UP!

ZZZZZZZ

THE FOREVER PEOPLE HAVE *RUN OUT* OF PLACES TO HIDE! THEIR *NEXT* ENCOUNTER WITH DEVILANCE SHALL BE THEIR *LAST!*

ON A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, THE FOREVER PEOPLE REAPPEAR··· BUT ON THEIR HEELS···

LOOK! ON THE BEACH! THAT *FLASH* OF ENERGY!

IT *DIDN'T* TAKE LONG FOR DEVILANCE TO PICK UP OUR TRAIL! NOW, STAY *CALM!*

WITH A LITTLE ASSIST FROM MOTHER BOX, WE CAN *WREST* THAT LANCE FROM THAT DEMON!

YES! DEPRIVED OF HIS WEAPON, DEVILANCE'S POWER IS *CONSIDERABLY* WEAKENED!

MOTHER BOX GROWS ACTIVE! HER CIRCUITS HUM! SHE GENERATES A POWERFUL FIELD OF *MAGNA-WAVES!*

WWoooooo

AS FOR DEVILANCE, HIS COBRA-EYES ALREADY SCAN THE ISLAND FOR SIGNS OF HIS QUARRY!

THEY'RE *HERE,* ALL RIGHT! THE CIRCUITS INSIDE THIS LANCE ARE RESPONDING *"POSITIVE!"*

SUDDENLY!

WHA-?

MY LANCE! I CAN'T HOLD IT! IT'S BEEN TORN FROM MY GRASP!

WWOOOOOOOOO.

12

MAGNA-WAVES! THOSE NEW GENESIS BRATS HAVE USED THEM TO SEIZE THE LANCE AND IMPRISON IT IN A VORTEX!

WHHRRRR

MOONRIDER! SO THAT'S YOUR STRATEGY!

I SHOULD BLAST YOU WITH THE MEGATON TOUCH---! BUT THIS WAY WILL DO!

POW!

UGH!

LET ME HAVE HIM NOW, MARK!

YOU'LL ALL DIE FOR THIS!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, DEVILANCE! A FEW GOOD TAPS SHOULD CHANGE YOUR MIND!

BIG BEAR! LOOK BEHIND YOU! MOVE OUT OF THE WAY! ---BUT FAST!

THE VORTEX HAS TURNED! ---AND IT'S CLOSING IN ON HIM-!

13

WHIRRRRR

YOU *FOOLS!* THERE ARE *COUNTER CIRCUITS* IN MY LANCE! IT IS PROGRAMMED TO *RETURN* TO ME!

THEN THE VORTEX *BURSTS!* ---AND IT FLINGS OUT THE LANCE AND BIG BEAR!

FFOM

NOW IT IS *MY* TURN, BOASTFUL ONE!

ZIPPP

ZIPPP

EVEN AS DEVILANCE PREPARES TO *SPEAR* BIG BEAR··· SERIFAN PULLS A *COSMIC CARTRIDGE* FROM HIS HATBAND-!

14

A SURGE OF HEAVY GRAVITY ENERGY LEAPS FROM THE CARTRIDGE AND ENVELOPS DEVILANCE! HIS WEIGHT *INCREASES* TENFOLD AND HE TOPPLES FORWARD!

ONE SIDE, BIG BEAR! MAKE WAY FOR THE FALLING STATUE!

BY HIGH-FATHER'S STAFF---! HE LOOKS LIKE HE WEIGHS *TONS!*

HE SURE DUG A *GOOD-SIZED PIT* WHEN HE HIT THE SAND!

BOMP!

WILL *THIS* HOLD HIM, SERIFAN?

I *HOPE* SO, BIG BEAR! BUT WHO CAN GAUGE THE POWER OF DEVILANCE?

LEAVE HIM, SERIFAN!

COME, BIG BEAR! LET'S GO WHERE WE CAN USE THE TIME TO FORM A *FINAL* DECISION ABOUT HIM---!

THE FOREVER PEOPLE GO DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE ISLAND! IF DEVILANCE BECOMES ACTIVE TOO SOON, THERE WILL AT LEAST BE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM---!

RIGHT NOW, HE'S AT OUR MERCY! BUT HOW TO DISPOSE OF HIM IS A *DIFFICULT* QUESTION!

15

WELL, WE CAN'T *KILL* DEVILANCE!

OUR CREED IS NON-VIOLENCE!

THEN WE'VE GOT TO BE AT OUR WISEST!

IF ONLY WE HAD THE INFINITE WISDOM OF THE *SOURCE!* THE ANSWER WOULD *SURELY* COME!

WE MAY HAVE TO *RELY* ON THE SOURCE! MOTHER BOX IS CONTENDING WITH THE *CIRCUITS* OF DEVILANCE!

THE ANSWER *MUST* BE THERE!

MARK! I-I THINK I HEAR *FOOTSTEPS!*

IT COULD BE A FOREST ANIMAL---

---OR *DEVILANCE!*

16

IN A DIMENSION CLOSED OFF BY DARKSEID, *INFINITY MAN* RESTS---AND *MENDS*---!

THEN HE STIRS AND ROLLS OVER TO FACE THE SKY---! HE FEELS *NEW* STRENGTH POUR THROUGH HIS BODY---

THE WEAKNESS IS GONE---!

IT'S TIME TO *TRY* AGAIN---! THIS TIME I *MUST* FIND A WAY TO SMASH THE BARRIER TO THE *OUTSIDE* OF THIS UNIVERSE!

THEN, INFINITY MAN *LIFTS* OFF THE HAVEN PLANET ---*MORE* DETERMINED THAN EVER TO SUCCEED!

THE YOUNG *FOREVER PEOPLE!*

THEY ARE THE KEY!

IN THE MAGIC WORD "*TAARU,*" WHICH LINKS US AS ONE, *DESTINY* SHALL DO WHAT THE POWERS OF TIME AND SPACE *COMMAND* IT!

17

THIS SHOULD SETTLE IT!

DEVILANCE! THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM!

HE'S BROKEN THE GRIP OF HIS HEAVY GRAVITY TRAP!

SFAK!

MY MULTIPLE POWERS ENABLE ME TO ADJUST ALL RESTRICTIVE ELEMENTS! NOW IT'S MY TURN TO ACT!

YOU'LL FIND US READY TO DEFEND OURSELVES, DEVILANCE!

---AND YOU KNOW WE CAN! OUR BATTLE MUST END IN STALEMATE!

WOULD YOU FIGHT AN END-LESS WAR?

YOU'RE CLEVER TO MUDDY THE REAL FACT---!

---THAT YOU WON'T KILL! ---AND THAT I WON'T HESITATE!! THE POWER IN THIS LANCE SHALL BREAK THIS STALEMATE! ---NOW!

VYKIN! MOTHER BOX RISES! IS SHE CALLING FOR THE "CONTACT RITUAL?"

YES! SHE STRONGLY SENSES A CONTACT WITH INFINITY MAN!

18

BUT DARKSEID CAUSED HIM TO VANISH! --- IMPRISONED HIM IN SOME UNSEEN LIMBO WHERE WE COULDN'T REACH HIM!

I THINK WE CAN, NOW! ***EVERYBODY!*** TOUCH MOTHER BOX! LET HER SIGNALS POUR THROUGH US, AND OUT--- ***BEYOND*** SPACE AND TIME-!

AND, AT THE EDGE OF THE DISTANT BARRIER, INFINITY MAN'S THOUGHTS REACH OUT!

I'VE ***DONE*** IT---! THE BARRIER ***CAN'T*** IMPRISON THOUGHT WAVES! I CAN SENSE THE FOREVER PEOPLE!

I CAN SENSE YOU, FRIENDS! I CAN SENSE YOUR DANGER! LET US FORM THE UNION WHICH MAKES US ONE!--- WHICH EFFECTS THE TRANSFER TO MEET THAT DANGER!

SAY THE WORD! SAY IT! --- AND ***SEND*** IT ACROSS THE VAST INFINITE!!

AND THE WORD COMES!

TAARU!

THEN, SPACE AND TIME WRENCH AND WARP! WHERE THE FOREVER PEOPLE STOOD TO FACE DEVILANCE --- ***INFINITY MAN*** APPEARS IN THEIR PLACE!!

SO ***YOU'RE*** THE ENEMY-!

WHA-? ***WHERE*** ARE THE FOREVER PEOPLE?

19

INFINITY MAN ANSWERS WITH A VIOLENT CHARGE!

SOMEHOW YOU'VE *CHEATED* ME OF MY QUARRY! I'LL---*I'LL*---

YOUR ENERGIZED LANCE *WON'T* HELP YOU!

I'M GOING TO PUT YOU BOTH OUT OF ACTION! I'LL BREAK *BOTH* OF YOU!

UGH! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

DEVILANCE'S WEAPON SUDDENLY LEAPS AND COILS ITSELF AROUND INFINITY MAN! ---TIGHTER! TIGHTER!---

TASTE THE POWER OF DEVILANCE--- AND *PERISH!* *HAHAHA!!*

BUT A *STRONG* COUNTER-FORCE IS BROUGHT *AGAINST* THE STRANGLING WEAPON!!

SPONGG!!

THE LANCE STRAIGHTENS AND STREAKS OFF! BUT INFINITY MAN SEIZES IT BEFORE IT CAN RETURN TO DEVILANCE!
NO, YOU DON'T!
GIVE ME THAT WEAPON!
THE VERY AIR EXPLODES WITH RELEASED ENERGY AS THE TWO COMBATANTS STRUGGLE FOR POSSESSION OF THE LANCE!
KRAKLE!
THE CHARGED FURY MOUNTS! ---INCREASES! ---RISES TO A PITCH THAT BEGINS TO SHAKE THE ISLAND LOOSE FROM ITS NATURAL ANCHORAGE-!
WHOOOM!
THEN THE ISLAND AND ITS TWO POWERFUL SOURCES OF CONFLICT VANISH IN A CATACLYSMIC BLOW-UP WHICH CAN BE SEEN AND FELT FOR HUNDREDS OF MILES!
BAAARAAAM!
THROUGH INSTRUMENTS FROM AFAR, TWO WITNESSES OBSERVE THE TRAGEDY---!
THUS, BLIND DESTINY WRITES AN ENDING WELL BEYOND THE WISDOM OF DARKSEID HIMSELF!
IT WAS DEVILANCE'S WEAPON! THE THING COULDN'T BE TAKEN BY AN ENEMY!
21

AND ITS POWER TOOK *ALL* WITH IT! *INFINITY MAN! DEVILANCE!*---AND THE *FOREVER PEOPLE*--- NOW IN A PLACE WHERE THEY MAY STAY *FOREVER!*

WITH THE INFINITY MAN GONE, THEY CAN *NEVER* RETURN! IN THE END, GREAT DARKSEID, DESTINY SPEAKS FOR US ALL!

ON THE FAIR WORLD BEYOND THE BARRIER, WHERE INFINITY MAN ONCE FOUND REPLENISHMENT FOR CONTINUED BATTLE, THE FOREVER PEOPLE FIND---*PEACE!*

MOTHER BOX HAS GIVEN US THE SITUATION!---THIS WORLD MAY BE OUR HOME FOR *ETERNITY!*

ETERNITY, HERE, BECKONS WITH *ENDLESS* WONDERS! LET'S GO FORWARD--- AND FIND THEM ALL! IT'S THE *WILL* OF DESTINY!

A MOMENT *STIRS!* A MOMENT *LIVES!* A MOMENT *PASSES ON!* THE YOUNG FOREVER PEOPLE, FOR *THIS* MOMENT, TURN THEIR BACKS TO EARTH AND FACE THEIR FUTURE ON THIS NEW WORLD! WILL THEY RETURN SOMEDAY? DESTINY WILL ANSWER THIS QUESTION, TOO!

22

AND WHILE SOME LEAVE ONE WORLD FOR ANOTHER, LET'S NOT FORGET THE EXCITEMENT OF NEW ENTRIES!!

FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF THE

DEMON!

ISSUE FOR ISSUE, THE GREATEST NEW COMIC MAGAZINE FOR THE MONEY!

LOOK FOR IT! BUY IT-! READ IT!!!

Beautiful Dreamer

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Adventurer**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The Forever People**
Base of Operations: **Originally New Genesis, currently the distant planet Adon**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **5'6"** Weight: **128 lbs.**
Eyes: **Blue** Hair: **Black**

HISTORY:
A psychically sensitive young woman born on the planet New Genesis, Beautiful Dreamer is said to be one of the few beings whose mind can comprehend the legendary Anti-Life Equation.

When the diabolical Darkseid, ruler of Apokolips, began to use the Earth as a focal point in his war against New Genesis, he kidnapped Beautiful Dreamer, hid her on Earth, and was finally forced to release her when confronted by Superman and the mysterious Infinity Man.

When Dreamer and her lifelong friends and companions, the Forever People, were reunited, they decided to remain on Earth for a time, to learn more about the planet and perhaps help protect it from Darkseid's evil.

After numerous adventures on Earth, the Forever People found themselves pursued by Devilance, an agent of the villainous Darkseid, and were forced to use their unique ability to trade places with the superpowerful Infinity Man in an effort to save themselves. In the course of their battle, though, Devilance and Infinity Man were seemingly destroyed, leaving the Forever People trapped on the idyllic planet where Infinity Man had been resting when they summoned him. Intrigued by this tranquil paradise, and sensing adventure just over the horizon, the Forever People went forth to explore their new home.

POWER & WEAPONS:
A skilled hand-to-hand combatant, as are all the children of New Genesis, Beautiful Dreamer also possesses the singular ability to isolate images from the minds of others and give those images temporary form by creating frightening, lifelike illusions. There appears to be no limit to the size or duration of these images.

The Forever People also possess a Mother Box, a living computer which gives various kinds of aid to the children of New Genesis.

Art: Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

BIG BEAR

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Adventurer, Pilot**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The Forever People**
Base of Operations: **Originally New Genesis, currently the distant planet Adon**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **6'5"** Weight: **252 lbs.**
Eyes: **Green** Hair: **Red**

HISTORY:
Little is known of Big Bear's early life on New Genesis. The eldest of the Forever People, Big Bear first came to Earth in pursuit of Beautiful Dreamer, who had been kidnapped by the evil Darkseid. After freeing Dreamer, with the aid of Superman and the enigmatic Infinity Man, the Forever People decided to remain on Earth for a time to learn about the planet and protect it from Darkseid's evil schemes.

After numerous adventures on Earth, the Forever People found themselves pursued by Devilance, an assassin under Darkseid's command, and were forced to use their unique ability to trade places with the Infinity Man in an effort to save themselves. In the course of the battle, though, Devilance and the Infinity Man were apparently destroyed, leaving the Forever People trapped on the idyllic planet where Infinity Man had been resting when summoned. Intrigued by this tranquil paradise, and sensing adventure, the Forever People went forth to explore their new home.

POWERS & WEAPON:
A skilled hand-to-hand combatant, Big Bear is also among the strongest of the children of New Genesis, making him superstrong by human standards, capable of bending steel and hurling giant redwood trees almost effortlessly.

Big Bear's atomic structure is reinforced by a constant flow of so-called high-density atoms, and he is also able to store an excess of free-flowing atoms that he can direct at will to reinforce the power of his already awesome punch.

Big Bear is also the pilot of the Super-Cycle, the incredible vehicle which is the Forever People's principal form of transportation. Able to soar soundlessly through the sky as well as reshift its atoms so it can pass through solid objects, the Super-Cycle is also capable of phasing, traveling the electron stream to a new destination in a matter of moments once Big Bear has programmed new coordinates into the Cycle's handlebar computer.

The Super-Cycle is in frequent contact with Mother Box, a so-called living computer possessed by the Forever People, which gives various forms of assistance to the children of New Genesis.

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

Desaad

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Master Torturer**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **Member of Darkseid's Ruling Elite**
Base of Operations: **Apokolips**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #2**
Height: **5'11"** Weight: **152 lbs.**
Eyes: **Black** Hair: **Black**

HISTORY:
Desaad was one of the earliest allies of Darkseid in his rise to power on the planet Apokolips. Desaad was an inventor who specialized in the creation of weapons and devices for torturing and killing, usually in a protracted, painful manner. In fact, Desaad took a perverse, perhaps addictive pleasure in using Apokolips technology to experience the emotions of his victims as he made them suffer. Desaad designed weapons for the young Darkseid, who came to appreciate Desaad's macabre sense of humor at the expense of their victims.

Queen Heggra of Apokolips disapproved of her son Darkseid's courting of the sorceress Suli, whom Darkseid finally wed secretly. Heggra had Desaad poison Suli. However, although Darkseid was infuriated at Desaad's betrayal, they remained allies, and he forced Desaad to murder Heggra secretly, thus making Darkseid ruler of Apokolips.

Desaad acted as Darkseid's right-hand man during the first series of battles between the forces of Apokolips and New Genesis on Earth. However, during a fight between Darkseid's sons Orion and Kalibak, Desaad used his technology to increase Kalibak's strength to a level greater than Orion's. Desaad then used his machines to experience the emotions of the two combatants from afar. Furious that Desaad's meddling might lead to Orion's death, Darkseid disintegrated Desaad with his Omega Effect. Sometime later, though, regretting the loss of his confidant, Darkseid used the Omega Effect to resurrect Desaad.

POWERS & WEAPONS:
Desaad possesses no known superpowers. He is a brilliant inventor of weapons for killing and torture. Perhaps his most spectacular achievement was "Happyland," an amusement park that, behind the scenes, actually served as a prison for his victims. The prisoners were anguished over the seeming indifference of the park's customers to their plight, unaware that Desaad's technology caused the visitors to see them as something other than what they were.

Art: Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

BIG BEAR

MARK MOONRIDER

SERIFAN

VYKIN THE BLACK

HISTORY:

The Forever People are a group of five adolescents from the planet New Genesis who have been lifelong friends and companions, and who for a time lived on Earth, seeking to thwart the evil schemes of Darkseid, ruler of Apokolips.

The only young woman in the group is Beautiful Dreamer, who can perceive images in the minds of others and manifest them as illusions. Big Bear possesses superhuman strength and pilots the Forever People's Super-Cycle, which can fly, pass through solid objects by shifting its atoms, and even "phase" (teleport itself) to another location almost instantaneously. The Cycle is also armed with various weapons. Mark Moonrider can generate jolts of energy with his "megaton touch." Serifan carries "cosmic cartridges" that serve various functions, such as creating force-fields or generating antigravity. Vykin the Black possesses magnetic powers.

The Forever People carry with them a so-called living computer, a Mother Box, which provides various services for the five companions. When the Forever People touch the Mother Box and say the word "Taaruu," they exchange places with a mysterious being called Infinity Man, who possesses many extraordinary powers.

When Darkseid first launched his operations on Earth, he kidnapped Beautiful Dreamer and hid her there. The other Forever People went to Earth to rescue their friend, and Darkseid was forced to release her when he was confronted by both Superman and Infinity Man, whom the Forever People had summoned. The five Forever People decided to remain on Earth for a while to learn about the planet and to protect its people from Darkseid's plots.

After various clashes with Darkseid and his minions, the Forever People found themselves pursued by his agent Devilance. To save themselves, the Forever People exchanged places with Infinity Man once again. Devilance and Infinity Man were seemingly destroyed in the course of their battle, leaving the Forever People trapped on the distant planet Adon, where Infinity Man had been resting when the Forever People summoned him. Fascinated by the idyllic paradise in which they found themselves, and sensing that new adventures awaited them, the Forever People began to explore their new home. What happened to them has not yet been recorded.

First Appearance: THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

GLORIOUS GODFREY

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Revelationist**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **Darkseid's Elite**
Base of Operations: **Apokolips**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #3**
Height: **5'11"** Weight: **195 lbs.**
Eyes: **Blue** Hair: **Red**

HISTORY:
An orator with incredible persuasive powers, Glorious Godfrey was sent to Earth by Darkseid, monstrously evil monarch of the dark planet Apokolips, to spread rhetoric and unrest that would help pave the way for Darkseid's coming. With the support of his traveling road show, Glorious Godfrey preached the wonders of Anti-Life, the equation for which being Darkseid's ultimate goal.

Those who opposed Godfrey's position were hunted down and dealt with by members of Godfrey's personal army called the Justifiers. These were generally Earthmen who had been swayed by Godfrey's preachings, then completely mind-controlled by the special helmets they all wore.

Before Glorious Godfrey could cause mass rioting throughout America, he and his forces were dealt a crushing blow by the young super-beings from New Genesis who called themselves the Forever People.

Glorious Godfrey has long harbored great jealousy over Darkseid's obvious favoritism toward his master torturer Desaad.

POWERS & WEAPONS:
A subpar athlete and hand-to-hand combatant, Glorious Godfrey's greatest gifts are his overwhelming speaking voice and his extraordinary powers of persuasion. Whether these are natural gifts or have been augmented by the power of Darkseid has yet to be determined. Godfrey employs a private army called the Justifiers, Earthmen who believe Godfrey's rhetoric and had their perceptions completely contorted by Godfrey's words. The special Helmets worn by the Justifiers allow Glorious Godfrey to control his soldiers even when they are not in his presence.

Art by Jack Kirby & Bob Smith

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Inapplicable**
Marital Status: **None**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **None**
Base of Operations: **Unknown**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **6'4"** Weight: **247 lbs.**
Eyes: **Unknown** Hair: **Unknown**

HISTORY:
Nothing is known about the origin of the mysterious being called Infinity Man. Nor is it known how he first became associated with the Forever People, a group of five adolescents from the planet New Genesis.

What is known is that the Forever People carry with them a so-called living computer called a Mother Box. When the Forever People wish to summon Infinity Man, the Mother Box levitates. Then the Forever People touch the Mother Box and speak the word "Taaruu." This causes them to exchange places with Infinity Man, who can then use his extraordinary powers on their behalf. When Inifinity Man's task for the Forever People is done, he vanishes, transporting himself back to where he came from, and the Forever People reappear in his place. Exactly where Infinity Man comes from is unknown. It is apparently a place, perhaps within a pocket dimension, where the laws of nature are quite different from those on Earth.

Infinity Man's first known appearance on Earth came when the four boys in the Forever People summoned him to rescue their teammate Beautiful Dreamer from the satanic Darkseid. In a later encounter Darkseid imprisoned Infinity Man behind a strange barrier in an unknown area of space, perhaps in another dimension. Infinity Man made the idyllic planet Adon his base in that realm.

For months the Forever People were unable to exchange places with Infinity Man. Finally, however, they succeeded in doing so in the course of their battle with Devilance the Pursuer. The struggle between Infinity Man and Devilance culminated when Infinity Man seized the Pursuer's energy lance and there was a cataclysmic explosion. Infinity Man and Devilance were apparently both destroyed, and the Forever People were marooned on Adon. But whether the enigmatic Infinity Man is truly dead remains to be seen.

POWERS & WEAPONS:
Infinity Man possesses many incredible powers that he claims derive from the fact that he comes from a place where the natural laws of Earth do not apply.

Among Infinity Man's known powers are his vast superhuman strength and an antigravity power that enables him to fly. He can project bolts of tremendous force and waves of magnetic energy. Infinity Man can rearrange the molecular structure of objects. He can make objects nonsolid so that he can pass through them. Infinity Man has a large degree of invulnerability. He can telekinetically control the motion of objects.

Infinity Man shares the knowledge possessed by the Forever People and is linked to them in some unknown manner.

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Agent of Darkseid**
Marital Status: **Unknown**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **Member of Darkseid's Elite**
Base of Operations: **Apokolips**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE # 2** and **THE NEW GODS #2** (published in the same month)
Height: **6'4"** Weight: **275 lbs.**
Eyes: **Red, now possibly orange**
Hair: **Unknown, possibly none**

HISTORY:
Virtually nothing is known about the origin of the being called Mantis. He is apparently somehow related to the "bug" people of the planet New Genesis, whom he has called his "kin." Mantis has also claimed to have been given at least some of his superhuman powers by Darkseid, ruler of the planet Apokolips, where Mantis usually lives.

Mantis preceded Darkseid in coming to Earth. Mantis intended to conquer and rule as much of Earth as he could. Darkseid permitted Mantis to do so, hoping that the chaos that Mantis created would help him in locating the human mind holding the all-powerful Anti-Life Equation. The Forever People of New Genesis summoned the mysterious Infinity Man, who defeated Mantis, ending his first assault on Earth.

Next Mantis organized the inhabitants of the "bug" colonies of New Genesis into an army that invaded Earth. Lightray, Orion, and Forager of New Genesis fought Mantis and his army and forced them to retreat from Earth.

Recently, Mantis has aided Darkseid in the latter's attempt to conquer Earth. Mantis's appearance has considerably changed lately, but it is unclear whether Mantis is simply wearing a new costume or whether he has undergone a permanent or temporary physical transformation.

POWERS & ABILITIES:
Mantis is the most powerful being on Apokolips apart from Darkseid himself. Mantis is an "energy vampire," capable of absorbing any form of energy, including magic, and then using it against an opponent.

Mantis can also generate and build vast amounts of cosmic energy through resting in his "power pod," which he keeps underground where he dwells.

Mantis can fire powerful energy blasts. He can charge any object he touches with great destructive energy.

Mantis can generate tremendous heat with his "thermal touch" or use his touch to create incredibly low temperatures, thereby imprisoning a victim in a nearly indestructible "frigi-block."

Perhaps Mantis's most destructive power is his ability to create tiny amounts of antimatter within something he touches. Matter and antimatter explode on contact, releasing extraordinary amounts of energy.

Mantis possesses vast superhuman strength and the ability to fly.

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

MARK MOONRIDER

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Adventurer**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The Forever People**
Base of Operations: **Originally Super Town, currently the distant planet Adon**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **5'11"** Weight: **169 lbs.**
Eyes: **Blue** Hair: **Black**

Nothing is known of Mark Moonrider's early life. It is clear, however, that he was a natural leader and that he numbered among his friends those who were to make up the Forever People. When Darkseid kidnapped Beautiful Dreamer and took her to Earth in an effort to locate the Anti-Life Equation, Mark, without asking the permission of Highfather, led an expedition consisting of himself, Big Bear, Serifan, and Vykin the Black to rescue her.

By calling on the Infinity Man, and with the aid of Superman, the Forever People forced Darkseid to free Beautiful Dreamer. They then decided to remain on Earth to combat Darkseid's future plans, though again without Highfather's consent.

At first they relied largely on the Infinity Man, but when Darkseid banished him, the young heroes were left on their own. Moonrider continued as the group's leader, and they actually found two Earthmen who possessed the Anti-Life Equation. It was their interference that prevented Darkseid from gaining possession of it. (One of the men was sent into the past by Darkseid's Omega Effect: the other was accidentally killed by one of his own guards.)

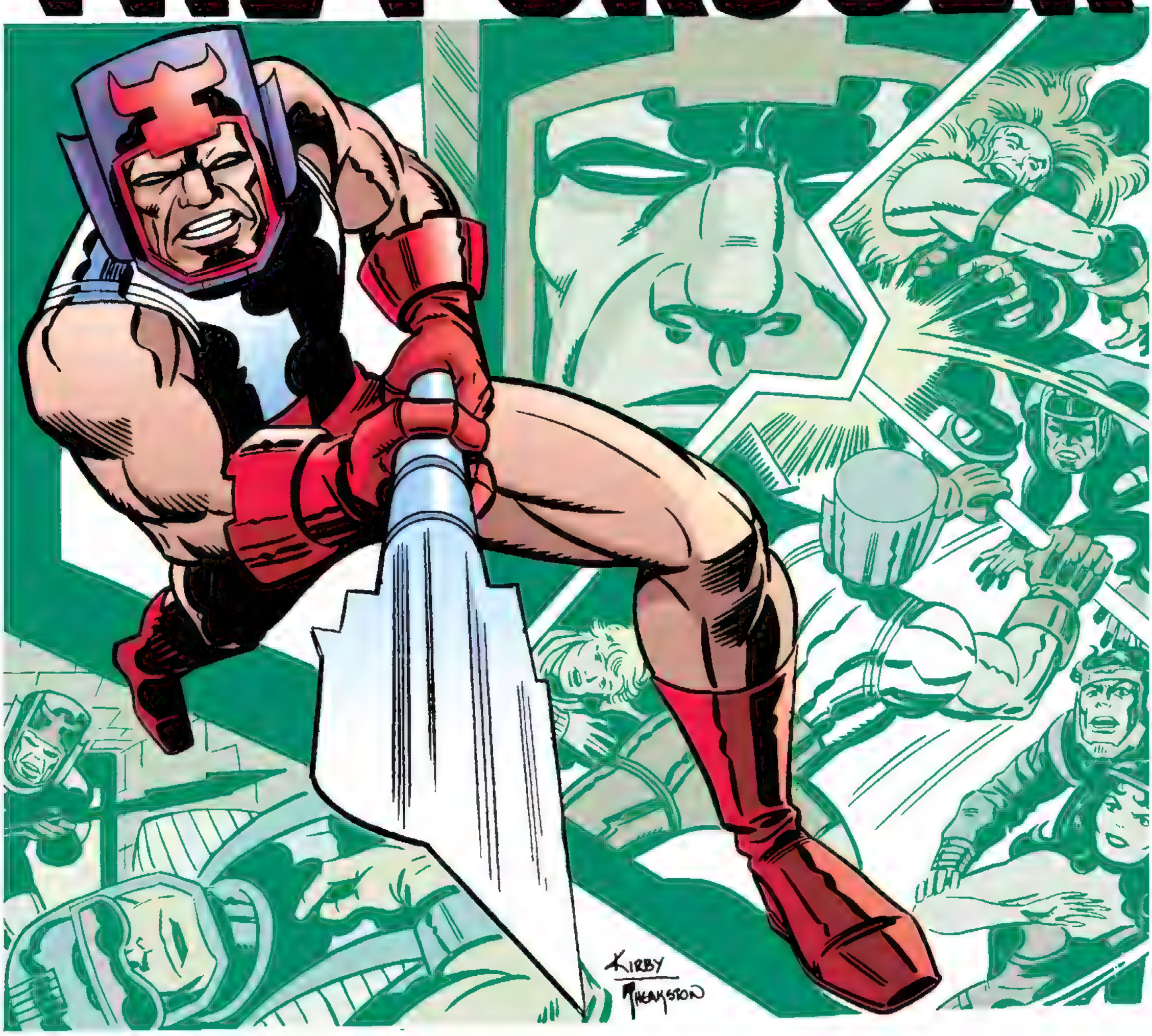
At last Darkseid sent one of his most deadly assassins, Devilance the Pursuer, after the Forever People. Their best efforts to stop him failed, but it was then that the infinity Man, who had been trying to get through to them, finally made contact, and they used their Mother Box to trade places with him. He then fought Devilance to the death–and it seems that this conflict ended in the death of both.

The Forever People were thus stranded on the planet where the Infinity Man had rested during his attempts to reach them. Adon is a beautiful, Edenic planet, rivaling New Genesis itself, but apparently in an otherdimensional continuum capable of keeping even one as powerful as the Infinity Man captive. Accepting their fate, the Forever People set out to explore their new world and have not been heard from since.

POWERS & ABILITIES:
Besides having a keen mind and a strong body and being well trained in hand-to-hand combat, Mark Moonrider possesses a megaton touch. With it, he can cause a tremendous explosion, and no doubt he could easily kill with it if he and his companions were not sworn never to take a life. Used at low intensity, it can cause a severe shock. On one occasion he used his megaton touch to turn solid rock into molten lava. He has stated that there are many other uses for the power, but what these are has yet to be determined.

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

THE PURSUER



Alter Ego: **Devilance**
Occupation: **Hunter**
Marital Status: **Unrevealed**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The New Gods of Apokolips**
Base of Operations: **Apokolips**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #11**
Height: **7'1"** Weight: **405 lbs.**
Eyes: **Blue** Hair: **Unrevealed**

HISTORY:
Devilance the Pursuer, one of the New Gods of the planet Apokolips, was trained to become an implacable hunter of victims assigned him by his planet's ruler, Darkseid. His duty was to pursue, trap, and destroy his prey, or else he himself would die. Before Darkseid ordered Devilance to hunt down the young gods of New Genesis known as the Forever People, the Pursuer had never failed a mission.

The Forever People bravely fought Devilance, but they seemed unable to stop him for long themselves. Finally, the Forever People used their sentient computer-like device called a Mother Box to exchange places with the strange but vastly powerful being with whom they were linked, Infinity Man. Thus the Forever People found themselves transported to the peaceful, other-dimensional world of Adon, where Infinity Man used to rest.

During the tremendous battle between Devilance and Infinity Man, the latter seized the Pursuer's multipowered lance. The Pursuer took hold of the lance as well, and fantastic amounts of energy were released as the two combatants struggled to possess the lance. Finally, there was an incredible explosion that utterly destroyed the remote Pacific Island on which the battle was taking place, and apparently killed both Infinity Man and the Pursuer. As a result, the Forever People were stranded on Adon, with no clear means of escape.

However, both Infinity Man and Devilance have many astounding powers, which perhaps could have enabled them to survive their clash. Whether or not Devilance the Pursuer and Infinity Man are truly dead thus remains to be seen.

POWER & WEAPONS:
Devilance the Pursuer has superhuman strength and a high degree of immunity to physical injury. Possibly much of his strength and resistance to injury is due to his ability to increase his own physical density. Devilance also has many undefined powers that enable his body to adjust to and undo the effects of various kinds of weaponry or superpowers used against him. For example, his body can adjust to extreme temperatures.

Devilance's principal weapon is his lance, which serves many functions. It can fire powerful energy blasts. It enables Devilance to fly by holding onto it. It contains circuitry enabling him to track down his victims. Other circuitry causes his lance to return to him if he is separated from it. Devilance can cause his lance's blade to glow with destructive energy. He can also mentally command the lance to leap onto an adversary and tightly coil itself about him.

Art by Jack Kirby & Greg Theakston

SERIFAN

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Adventurer**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The Forever People**
Base of Operations: **The distant planet Adon**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **5' 7 1/2"** Weight: **143 lbs.**
Eyes: **Blue** Hair: **Blond**

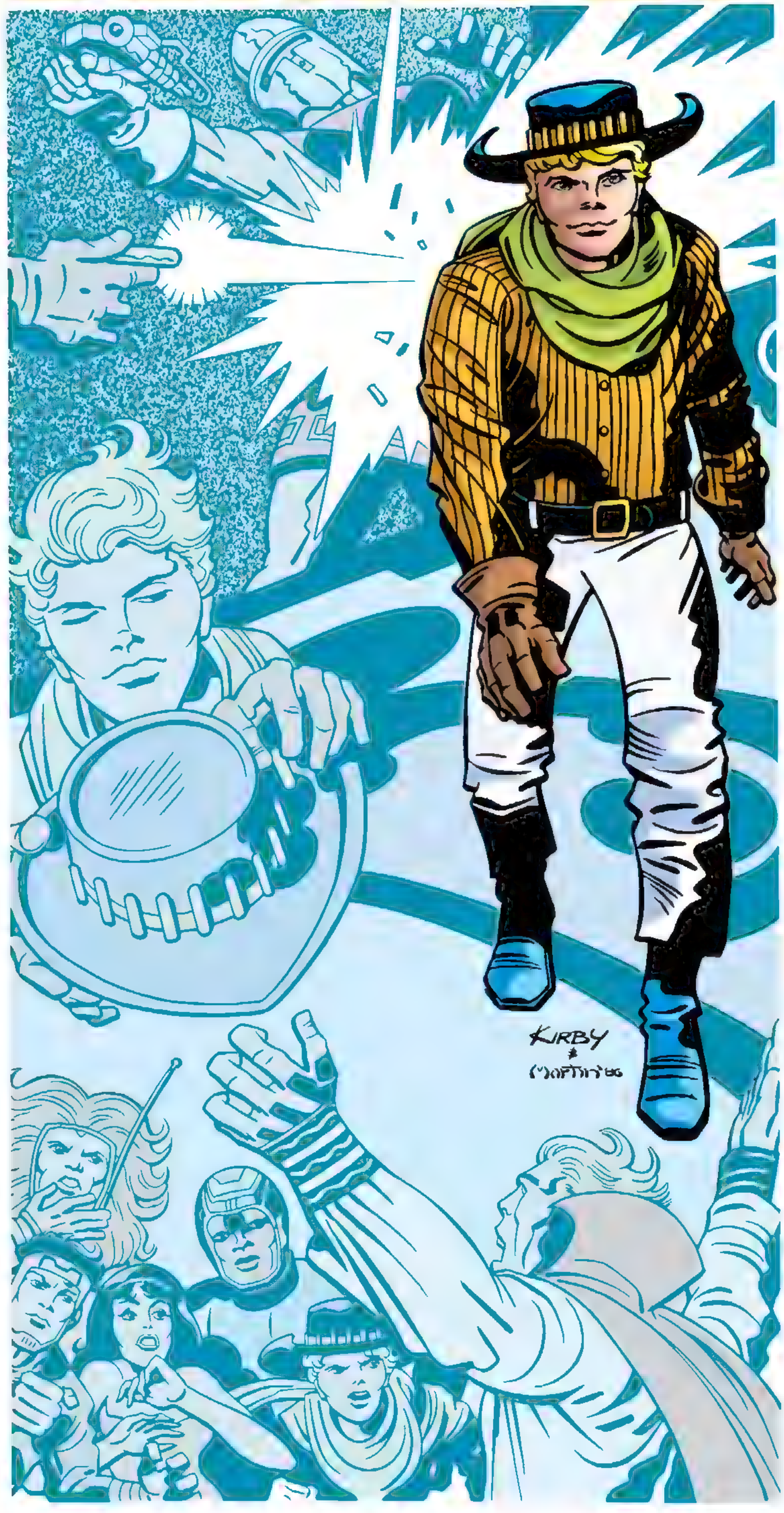
Nothing is known of Serifan's early life on the planet New Genesis, except that he numbered among his friends Beautiful Dreamer, Big Bear, Mark Moonrider, and Vykin the Black, who together with himself would be known as the Forever People.

When Darkseid, master of the planet Apokolips, kidnapped Beautiful Dreamer and took her to Earth in an attempt to discover the Anti-Life Equation, Serifan and the other Forever People came to rescue her without first obtaining the consent of New Genesis's leader, Highfather. The four male Forever People summoned the mysterious Infinity Man, and, confronted by both the Infinity Man and Superman, Darkseid was forced to release Beautiful Dreamer.

The five Forever People then decided to remain on Earth for a time to learn about the planet and to combat Darkseid's future plans there, though again without Highfather's permission. The Forever People found two Earthmen who possessed the Anti-Life Equation, and it was their interference that prevented Darkseid from gaining possession of it. (One of the men was sent into the past by Darkseid's Omega Effect; the other was accidentally killed by one of his own guards.)

At one point Darkseid imprisoned the Infinity Man behind a strange barrier in an unknown area of space, apparently in another dimension. Infinity Man made the beautiful planet Adon his base in that realm.

At last Darkseid sent one of his deadliest assassins, Devilance the Pursuer, after the Forever People. To save themselves, the Forever People used their Mother Box to exchange places with Infinity Man. Devilance and Infinity Man were seemingly destroyed as a result of their battle, leaving the Forever People trapped on Adon. Fascinated by the idyllic paradise in which they found themselves, and sensing that new adventures awaited them, Serifan and his four friends set out to explore their new world.



POWERS & ABILITIES:
Serifan is a "sensitive" possessing limited telepathic powers.

In his hatband Serifan carries "cosmic cartridges" that serve various purposes. For example, the cartridges can be used to create a protective "shock-repelli-field," to create an antigravity effect, to generate high gravitational force, to generate intense heat, to power a vehicle, or to stun an opponent.

Art by Jack Kirby & Gary Martin

VYKIN THE BLACK

Alter Ego: **None**
Occupation: **Adventurer**
Marital Status: **Single**
Known Relatives: **None**
Group Affiliation: **The Forever People**
Base of Operations: **The distant planet Adon**
First Appearance: **THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1**
Height: **6'1"** Weight: **201 lbs.**
Eyes: **Brown** Hair: **Black**

HISTORY:
Little is known of Vykin the Black's early life on the planet New Genesis except that he numbered among his friends Beautiful Dreamer, Big Bear, Mark Moonrider, and Serifan, who together with himself would be known as the Forever People.

When Darkseid, Master of the planet Apokolips, kidnapped Beautiful Dreamer and took her to Earth in an attempt to discover the Anti-Life Equation which would enable him to control all sentient beings in the universe, Vykin and the other Forever People came to Earth to rescue her without first obtaining the consent of New Genesis' leader, Highfather. The four male Forever People summoned the mysterious Infinity Man, and, confronted by both the Infinity Man and Superman, Darkseid was forced to release Beautiful Dreamer.

The five Forever People then decided to remain on Earth for a time to learn about the planet and to combat Darkseid's future plans there, although again without Highfather's permission. The Forever People found two Earthmen who possessed the Anti-Life Equation, and it was their interference that prevented Darkseid from gaining possession of it. (One of the men was sent into the past by Darkseid's Omega Effect; the other was accidentally killed by one of his own guards.)

At one point Darkseid imprisoned the Infinity Man behind a strange barrier in an unknown area of space, apparently in another dimension. Infinity Man made the beautiful planet Adon his base in that realm. At last Darkseid sent one of his deadliest assassins, Devilance the Pursuer, after the Forever People. To save themselves, the Forever People used their Mother Box to exchange places with Infinity Man. Devilance and Infinity Man were seemingly destroyed as a result of their battle, leaving the Forever People trapped on Adon. Fascinated by the idyllic paradise in which they found themselves, and sensing that new adventures awaited them, Vykin and his four friends set out to explore their new world.

POWERS & ABILITIES:
Vykin the Black possesses "magna-power," which enables him to project magnetic energy. He can also mentally trace atomic patterns and is therefore good at tracking.

Vykin has a keen mind and is a skilled hand-to-hand combatant. It is Vykin who carries the Forever People's Mother Box–a kind of living, sentient computer.

Art by Jack Kirby & Karl Kesel

Pinup art by Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from THE FOREVER PEOPLE #4

Pinup art by Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from THE FOREVER PEOPLE #4

Pinup art by Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from THE FOREVER PEOPLE #4

KIRBY'S THE NAME!

AND COMICS IS MY GAME!!

I CAN TELL YOU, PALS, I ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT!-- SURE, IT'S GREAT, GOING 'ROUND THAT BIG CREATIVE "BEND" AND BRINGING IN A SENSATIONAL "NEWIE!" BUT THE "BIGGIES" OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS REMAIN A GIANT EXPERIENCE IN THEMSELVES!!

TRY A BAG OF GENUINE GOLDEN AGE "GRABBERS!"

THERE'S ONE OF MINE IN THIS MAG! COULD BE A CLASSIC FROM THE "BOY COMMANDOS--" "SANDMAN"--"MANHUNTER" OR THE ORIGINAL "NEWSBOY LEGION!" EVERYTHING IS "AS IT WAS!!"

Pinup art by Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from THE FOREVER PEOPLE #4

Original pencils for page 15 of THE FOREVER PEOPLE #6

SHOT AFTER SHOT BLASTS THROUGH THE DAMP, COLD DARKNESS OF THE EERIE HOLLOWS THAT REACH OUT LIKE CROOKED SPIDERS IN THE EARTH BELOW!! THE SECRETS THAT SURROUND THE NAME OF BATES ARE UNDER ASSAULT BY STRANGE INVADERS -- FOR THESE SECRETS HIDE A MAN IN POSSESSION OF A FORCE OF TERRIFYING MAGNITUDE!! THE MAN WITH THE POWER!!

BAM! BAM!

-FOR WHO CAN DENY THE MYSTIC POWERS OF THE SECT!!! WHY-- -- NOT EVEN YOUR OMNIPOTENT, MISTER BATES!!

DON'T GIMME THAT! YOU GUYS AIN'T PART OF MISTER BATES' SECT!! I SAW---!!!!-

Original pencils for page 2 of THE FOREVER PEOPLE #8

BIOGRAPHIES

JACK KIRBY

Jack "the King" Kirby's comics career began in 1937 and continued for nearly six decades. With partner Joe Simon, Kirby drew and/or created numerous features, including Captain America, the Young Allies, the Sandman, the Newsboy Legion, and Manhunter. During the 1940s and '50s Simon and Kirby were responsible for numerous titles and concepts, including *Fighting American*, *Boys' Ranch*, and the creation of the romance comics genre. In 1961 the first issue of Marvel's *The Fantastic Four* cemented Kirby's reputation as comics' preeminent creator, and a slew of famous titles followed that elevated him to legendary status, such as *The Incredible Hulk*, *The Avengers*, and *X-Men*. Kirby returned to DC in 1971 with his classic Fourth World Trilogy, which was followed by *The Demon*, *OMAC*, and *Kamandi*. Jack Kirby continued working and innovating in comics until his death in 1994.

VINCE COLLETTA

Vince Colletta began his comics career in 1952, starting out as a penciller before switching his focus to inking. After establishing himself as a mainstay artist for the romance genre, he went on to contribute work to nearly all of Marvel Comics' new superhero titles in the early 1960s, inking primarily over Jack Kirby's pencils on such titles as *Daredevil*, *The Fantastic Four*, and a long run on the Mighty Thor feature in *Journey into Mystery*. He followed Kirby to work on the Fourth World books for DC, and went on to provide inks for a wide variety of other titles, including *Batman*, *Superman*, *Green Lantern*, *Wonder Woman*, and *Super Friends*. Colletta also served as DC's art director from 1976 to 1979. He passed away in 1991.

MIKE ROYER

Mike Royer began his comics career assisting the legendary Russ Manning in the 1960s on *Magnus, Robot Fighter* and *Tarzan* for Gold Key. In the 1970s he went on to ink and letter Manning's *Tarzan* and *Star Wars* syndicated newspaper strips. During this same period, Royer also pencilled and inked stories on his own for the Warren anthologies *Creepy*, *Eerie*, and *Vampirella*. However, his best-known works are undoubtedly his numerous collaborations with Jack Kirby on *The New Gods*, *The Forever People*, *Mister Miracle*, *The Demon*, and *Kamandi* for DC Comics, as well as *Captain America*, *The Eternals*, and many other titles for Marvel Comics.

Following his partnership with Kirby, in 1979 Royer began a long association with the Walt Disney Company, where he worked in the creative department of the consumer products/licensing division. In 1993 Royer left his staff position to freelance for the Disney Stores creative group. He continues to freelance for various companies from his home in Oregon.

THE FOREVER PEOPLE

Jack Kirby reinvented the superhero genre with his sprawling saga of the Fourth World—a bold storytelling vision that was decades ahead of its time.

In honor of this extraordinary talent's centennial, DC Comics is proud to re-present the groundbreaking work of the King of Comics in a brand-new series of trade paperback editions, collecting his classic DC titles in all their four-color glory!

Meet Beautiful Dreamer, Big Bear, Mark Moonrider, Serifan, and Vykin—the Forever People. When the nefarious Darkseid, ruler of Apokolips, kidnaps the telepathic Beautiful Dreamer from New Genesis to hoard the secrets of the Anti-Life Equation for himself, her comrades set out in hot pursuit and arrive on a strange planet called Earth!

Possessing advanced technology and extraordinary abilities surpassing anything that any human has seen, the Forever People decide to remain on Earth to learn more about its culture and defend it against further attacks from Darkseid. Armed with their high-tech Super-Cycle and the mother box, the living computer that allows them to summon the indomitable Infinity Man, the Forever People may be young compared to their fellow New Gods, but they are seasoned fighters against the dark forces of Apokolips.

This astonishing addition to Jack Kirby's Fourth World saga further reveals the extent of Kirby's stunning imagination. THE FOREVER PEOPLE BY JACK KIRBY collects THE FOREVER PEOPLE #1-11 and includes a bonus gallery of character profiles and pencil art.

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"